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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-122
Wednesday
24 June 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Israel

Conceding Likud's defeat by the Labor Party in the 23 June elections, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said a coalition with Labor was "a very unlikely prospect" based on his party's "previous experience." In an interview with Jerusalem television on 24 June, Shamir stated that "I am at the end of my own political life," adding that he will retire "without any qualms." Addressing the reporter, he stated: "You will not see me around for long." Meanwhile, in a victory speech to Labor supporters in Tel Aviv, Prime Minister-elect Yitzhaq Rabin said he would "change the national order of priorities," promising to "reverse the slump in aliyah," redistribute state funds to provide adequate housing and education, and "create conditions for the recruitment of large resources from abroad, which will enable us to reach peace with security as well as to redefine our internal priorities," according to Jerusalem radio.

Jordan

The PLO and the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks "welcomed" the Labor Party victory in the Israeli elections, Paris Radio Monte Carlo reported. According to the report, Hanan 'Ashrawi said the peace process may now "be freed at least from the sabotage attempts of the Likud;" Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, said the PLO leadership is "ready to start a direct dialogue with the new Israeli Government;" and Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir said Jordan considers any change in Israeli policy as "positive."

Palestinian Affairs

Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said he hoped the Labor victory in Israel would make the peace process "less difficult," but noted that Likud and Labor both have "similar policies regarding the fundamental rights" of Palestinians, according to Tunis radio.

Egypt

Authorities declared a state of emergency in Asyut Province and clamped a curfew on Dayrut village in a bid to contain sectarian violence, London MBC TV reported. Islamic fundamentalists in Dayrut were reported to have killed four people, including a police sergeant, in clashes with Coptic Christians.

Iraq

Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn sent a letter to the United Nations on 23 June requesting "the convening of an urgent Security Council meeting" to discuss the alleged burning of Iraqi crops by the United States, INA reports. The letter also states that Iraq "demands" that the United State and Great Britain stop their "internationally banned acts" and pay compensation for damages.

Libya

Authorities have closed nearly all Palestinian training camps, and have asked representatives of Palestinian groups to leave the country, Cairo AL-AHRAR disclosed. The Palestinian camps were all run by groups opposed to the PLO such as the PFLP-GC, DFLP, and Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, according to the paper.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Egyptian-Lebanese Communique Condemns Israeli Acts

NC2306144792 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] The People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee condemned the repeated Israeli acts of aggression against southern Lebanon, saying they contravene all international standards, laws, and human rights. The committee stated that these acts of aggression confirms Israel's racist intentions and insistence on its plan to destroy Lebanon's cultural image, system, and entity in the region. This was contained in a joint communique issued by the People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee and the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies delegation following a meeting attended by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

The communique noted that the Israeli aggression aims at fragmenting Lebanon, based on sectarianism and concessions as a prelude to splintering the Arab region on the one hand and obstructing the Middle East peace process on the other. The committee called on Israel to refrain from interfering in Lebanon's domestic affairs and abide by the international community's resolutions.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Views Israeli Government Elections

Abu-Sharif on Impact for Peace Process

LD2406080392 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The Israeli legislative elections yesterday resulted in the defeat of the extreme right, led by the Likud party, and the victory of the Labor Party, led by Yitzhaq Rabin. The left won 64 seats out of 120, while the Likud met a grim defeat after winning only 33 seats compared to 40 in the 1988 elections.

Palestinian presidential adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif said that he does not expect the peace process to become easier, but he hopes it will become less difficult if the Labor Party is able to form a new Israeli government. The Likud and Labor groups have similar policies regarding the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people. In a statement to TUNIS-AFRIQUE PRESSE yesterday evening, he said that he hopes that, in the event Rabin is able to form a government, he will fulfill the promises he made.

'No Preference' for Government Noted

NC2306142392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1311 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, representative of the Fatah Movement and Palestine's alternate ambassador in Cairo, today said that the PLO has no preference concerning Israeli governments. What matters to the PLO, he said, is that the Israeli Government recognizes the need to find a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian issue and the right of the Palestinian people for freedom, sovereignty, and independence in accordance with relevant international resolutions and standards.

The Palestinian envoy today said that the Palestinian delegation will continue negotiations with the new Israeli Government, which we hope will opt for peace.

Al-Qidrah added: We do not prefer one Israeli party to another. We are for peace and against racism and instability. He expressed hope that the party that forms the new Israeli Government will recognize the right of the Palestinian people for self-determination and for a free and dignified life and will uphold the legitimate Arab rights of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian envoy said that occupation and peace are irreconcilable. The Israeli Government, he stated, should deal clearly and decisively with the peace issue and not place obstacles before attempts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East.

Dailies Report on Reaction to PLO Amman Meeting

Analysis Says Meeting 'Calculated Risk'

JN2006072392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

["News Analysis" by Lamis K. Andoni: "PLO Throws Down Gauntlet to Israel and U.S. by Publicising Amman Meeting"]

[Text] By publicly chairing a meeting of the Palestinian team to peace talks with Israel, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has decided, once and for all, to end the American-Israeli imposed "invisible role" for the organisation in the seven-month peace process.

The PLO move, which came Thursday, is evidently a calculated risk that reflects the organisation's concern that its role could be effectively marginalised if it does not take action to emphasise that the delegation is not separate from or an alternative body to the organisation.

More importantly, the PLO is testing Israeli and, to an extent, American stands that a public association between the PLO and the Palestinian delegation could undermine the peace process, taking into consideration that Israel has repeatedly threatened to pull out from the talks if the PLO became directly involved.

It appears that the timing of this unprecedented move—i.e. allowing the meeting to be photographed—was by no means a coincidence. On the eve of this Tuesday's Israeli elections, the PLO is obviously trying to embarrass both the Likud and Labour parties.

On the one hand, the PLO is mocking and discrediting Likud's vows that it would never deal with the PLO or its members; on the other the PLO is also signalling to Labour that there is no escape from dealing with the PLO, directly on indirectly, as the peace process continues.

Most PLO officials, like many analysts, believe that neither Likud nor Labour could secure a majority in the Israeli parliament and that a coalition government is a more likely possibility. Consequently, a coalition government, the PLO appears to contemplate, will not be able to continue claiming that the PLO is a ghost that looms over the peace talks but is not part of it.

Israeli reactions to Thursday's meeting so far have fallen short of a decision to pull out from the peace talks—a difficult step to take on the eve of the elections. However, Tel Aviv has been placed in an awkward position.

The defiant PLO move does not mean that it will lead to the organisation's practical and visible involvement in the talks.

Public Israeli and American statements so far indicate that the U.S. and Israel do not favour any public emphasis on the PLO's role and their main concern is to keep the organisation out of the negotiating room, American analysts say.

For as long as the Israelis are—at least formally—talking to Palestinian delegates from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and not the PLO—as the representative of the Palestinian people everywhere—then it is easier to avoid and evade addressing Palestinian national rights from finding its way to the agenda.

Therefore, while the PLO has succeeded in asserting unequivocally that it still runs the show, it has still a long way to go to assert its direct involvement and transform the negotiations from talks between Israel and the Palestinians under occupation, to talks between Israel and the Palestinian people entitled to nationhood.

The successful PLO stunt is expected to be followed by attempts to broaden the Palestinian representation at the bilateral talks and eventually to include the organisation in the process.

The organisation is hoping that by playing up its role publicly it will gradually force all parties involved to deal with it directly.

The letter of assurances issued by the U.S. to the Palestinian prior to the Madrid peace conference last October implied that the cosponsors would not object to a broader Palestinian participation at a later stage. Some PLO officials even talk about hints or informal suggestions by the U.S. that the PLO would come in at a more advanced stage.

But no clear promise or commitment has been given by American officials to full pledged PLO participation in any phase of the peace talks, according to information available to the Jordan Times.

Furthermore, what could be of more relevance to the U.S. and Israel is not a public appearance of Mr. 'Arafat with the delegation- -which indeed is an important step—but that the Palestinians had already accepted the rules of the game, particularly the terms of their participation, and it is too late to change them.

No doubt the PLO on Thursday stretched the limits of the rules of the game, but it remains to be seen how far the PLO is willing to go to assert its role and the national rights of the Palestinian people. The PLO has tested the grounds but the implications of its public challenge are not clear yet. If Israel does not withdraw from the peace process, which seems more likely, then the leadership can expect to come under pressure from the opponents of the peace talks to take further steps beyond the media blitz. But whether Israel takes a drastic step or not, pressure will mount on the PLO to hold on to its position.

Some analysts believe that the co-sponsors, mainly the U.S., will try to treat Thursday's meeting in Amman "as an isolated incident" and pressure the delegation not to pursue such tactics in the future. Some Palestinians argue that the publicity was intended mainly to qualm growing Palestinian resentment of the exclusion of the PLO and the course that the peace process has taken.

Regardless of the calculations that the PLO leadership considered when it decided to publicise the joint meeting, the next step is how to redraw a strategy that will improve the terms of Palestinian participation and even the peace process itself—a task that awaits the PLO leadership and the Palestinian delegation that are currently meeting in Amman.

A reassessment of the negotiating strategy cannot be effective, according to Jordanian and Palestinian analysts, unless the opposition groups take an effective part in the real decision-making (that has so far been confined to a small circle in the upper hierarchy) and improve coordination with the Jordanian delegation.

Official Praises Talks

JN2206115092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jun 92 p 14

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], headed by Nayif Hawatimah, stated that it will pursue efforts to persuade the Palestinian negotiating delegation to announce at the negotiating table that it represents the Palestinian people and that its political authority is the PLO, similar to the governments of the other countries participating in the negotiations.

This came in a statement made by Taysir Khalid, PLO Executive Committee DFLP member, who told SAWT AL-SHA'B that the meeting two days ago chaired by

Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat between the negotiating delegation and the PLO Executive Committee was not the first meeting, nor will it be the last.

Khalid described the meeting as a positive step in the right direction toward rectifying the course of the negotiations and putting Palestinian representation in its right perspective. He noted that this meeting was compatible with the PLO Central Council decisions which emphasized the need to offset the iniquitous formula imposed on the PLO.

He hoped the meeting would be the start of rectifying representation at the negotiations based on the international legitimacy resolutions rather than the U.S. letter of invitation, which does not constitute an acceptable political and legal basis for a political settlement.

The PLO Executive Committee member called for using all means to defend this public meeting both inside and outside the occupied territories to break the Likud's policy of intransigence and to impose a fait accompli on the PLO's right to sit at the negotiating table in a delegation representing the Palestinian people.

Khalid launched a violent attack on certain Palestinian circles which are announcing that we are on the threshhold of legislative elections. Such announcements indicate efforts to cover the failure of the policy they have been adopting since the Madrid conference and to delude the Palestinian people.

He termed this policy unfeasible and called for abandoning the experimental policy and working for the higher national interest of the Palestinian people.

Khalid demanded placing facts before the Palestinian people so they would not have any delusions that would have frustrating consequencess in the short run. He noted that national effort should be accentuated to revive the broad democratic popular stamp of the intifadah.

'Ashrawi: Meeting Not 'Provocative Act'

AU2306142892 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 23 Jun 92 p 5

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by Peter Gerner in Amman; date not given: "We Finally Had To Put an End to Ostrich Policy"]

[Text] [Gerner] Why did the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations decide to show itself in public with Yasir 'Arafat precisely at this time?
['Ashrawi] It was not such a surprising and provocative act as it first appeared to be. But it had gradually become necessary to come out with the connection with the Palestinian decisionmaker, the PLO, of which everybody knew anyway. Moreover, it would not have been normal to meet, for example, with the Jordanians while ignoring President 'Arafat, who was here at the same time because of an operation. The meeting was neither planned with a view to the Israeli elections, nor was it intended to provoke a reaction. We are facing a new stage of the peace negotiations, and it is only natural and legitimate that the members of the delegation meet with the political leadership.

[Gerner] Was it not also planned to calm the Palestinians in the occupied territories because there have not been any tangible results so far?
['Ashrawi] Of course, we are accountable—to the people and to the leadership. The impression among the Palestinian population that it is time to put an end once and for all to the farce of pretending that there is no connection between the PLO and the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations has increased. Realities must be accepted as realities. This is also a question of our credibility. In this respect, our people have also increased the pressure on us.

[Gerner] The responsible people in Israel first threatened to arrest you and the other members of the delegation on your return across the Jordan. Now you are to be interrogated. How do you explain this change of mind?
['Ashrawi] I think they had time to think. But the fact that they backed down also shows that the law that prohibits contacts is not only undemocratic but also illegal. It forbids Israelis to meet with members of the PLO. But the Israeli laws cannot also be extended to the Palestinians. We are living under an occupation regime, and we ourselves do not have a law that forbids us to meet with the PLO and thus with our leadership. But the responsible people in Israel must also be aware that they would have dealt the peace conference a heavy blow if they had arrested us.

[Gerner] Do you rule out the possibility that you will be arrested at a later date?
['Ashrawi] This might be absolutely possible under the illegal occupation regime. At all times, all Palestinians are in danger of being arrested without reason and of being held for months under administrative detention without legal proceedings. This is one of the realities of life under an occupation regime. Our delegation has been harassed for a long time: by arrests, difficulties crossing the bridge over the Jordan, and so on. They say that we are to procure papers from the military authorities. We answer: We are no collaborators, rather members of an official delegation to negotiations at a peace conference and thus we have the right to an adequate status. Most members of our delegation have already been arrested once. And 60 percent of our adult population has already been imprisoned for political reasons.

[Gerner] How did the Americans react to your official meeting with 'Arafat?
['Ashrawi] I would say that the U.S. reaction was rather reserved and sensible. The Americans told us that they are worried. And we told them that, apart from humanitarian aspects, there is the need to be present with a comprehensive representation at the negotiating table and that the peace process will only benefit from it.

[Gerner] Are you not afraid that in this way you are helping the conservative Likud in Israel to get votes?
['Ashrawi] By no means. We did what we did for reasons that are decisive for the Palestinians and not for the Israelis. We also explained this to the Americans. So far, the Israelis have negotiated with Palestinians whom they knew to be PLO sympathizers but whose legitimacy was not contested as long as they did not openly profess these sympathies. Now, we told Israel: Put an end to your ostrich policy. We do not try to manipulate realities on the Israeli side, but we sit at the negotiating table with people who are responsible for daily oppression in the occupied territories and with people who persecuted and killed Palestinians during their military service. Still, we negotiate with them, because they represent the Israeli people.

[Gerner] What has the peace process achieved so far?
['Ashrawi] No concrete progress on the spot. On the contrary, it can be seen that conditions in the occupied territories have actually deteriorated. In the so-called peace year of 1991, the number of new Israeli settlements in the occupied territories increased to an extent that they account for 60 percent of the total settlement activities since 1967. The Israelis' political statements are becoming increasingly extreme and decidedly racist. Everything is being done to promote aversion to the peace process in the Israeli population. This is one aspect.

But, on the other hand, we can also present some political results: We achieved changes in public opinion; aroused the people's conscience; made the Palestinian question an issue again; and succeed in having the Palestinian identity recognized for the first time as an independent national reality. We have also been able to improve our diplomatic representation, for example, in Europe, which ought to play a role in the peace process that corresponds to its weight in other fields. We have also been able to deepen cooperation with the Arabs, and we are trying to overcome the painful consequences of the Gulf war.

[Gerner] Do you think that anything can be achieved at all before the U.S. presidential elections in November?
['Ashrawi] George Bush needs a foreign policy success. The Americans cannot afford to have the peace process decline. They have a vital interest in the peace process, which is not only some foreign policy affair, but a process that involves issues of stability, the economy, and security.

[Gerner] But can Bush afford to offend Israel's lobby in the United States before the elections?
['Ashrawi] With its refusal to guarantee loans, the U.S. Administration for the first time made a decision that was very unpopular with the pro-Israel lobby. For the first time we are dealing with a U.S. Administration that is not afraid of pursuing its own policy.

Admittedly, Israel is part of domestic politics in the United States. But I think that now there is already a long history of alienation between the two. In this context, I recall the Pollard espionage affair, the connection between Israelis and drug barons in Colombia, the passing-on of missile technologies to South Africa, and the connections with dictatorships. The effects of all this are now beginning to tell. And I also think that, with a view to their own economy, the American people also realize what sacrifices are required from them due to the permanent support for Israel. Israel demands money and, in return, takes the liberty of interfering in the U.S. decisionmaking process. Here it is a case of the tail wagging the dog.

[Gerner] The PLO's relations with Jordan have developed surprisingly well in the past few months. Are there considerations of announcing the formation of a confederation soon and letting the PLO return to Amman?
['Ashrawi] There are no plans to proclaim such a confederation in the present stage. Regarding the PLO's return to Jordan, it is present here with many departments. Other offices could be transferred to Amman if the need arises. But regarding the peace process, both sides must have the opportunity to develop and consolidate the special relations between the Palestinians and the Jordanians.

[Gerner] Twice within two months, PLO Chairman 'Arafat faced death without the question of the leadership being clarified. Under these circumstances, are structural reforms not overdue?
['Ashrawi] Reforms are, of course, necessary, for example, regarding the question of collective leadership, succession, and democratic mechanisms within the PLO. An institution that believes that it is able to manage without reforms is an institution that wastes away.

'Arafat Rejects Resignations of Leading Aides

LD2206142792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Jun 92 p2

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Palestinian Confirmation of Resignation of Three PLO Officials and 'Arafat's Rejection of These Resignations"]

[Text] Tunis—High-level Palestinian sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that three PLO officials recently submitted their resignations to President Yasir 'Arafat, who rejected them on the grounds that "in the Palestinian revolution, there can be no resignations."

The three Palestinian figures who submitted their resignations are Sulayman al-Hirfi, the Palestinian president's adviser on African affairs; 'Imad Shaqqur, 'Arafat's adviser on Israeli affairs; and Zuhayr Munasirah, who was deputy to martyr Abu-Jihad [former Fatah Central Committee Member Khalil al-Wazir].

While the real reasons for al-Hirfi's resignation are not known, Shaqqur's resignation was submitted about two months ago to protest being excluded from the PLO team in charge of following up the Palestinian-Israeli bilateral negotiations.

Shaqqur is a Palestinian from the Palestinian territories occupied in 1948 and played a prominent role in the Palestinian negotiations with progressive Jewish groups. He hoped to play a major part in the negotiations.

Regarding al-Munasirah, as in the case of al-Hirfi, nothing has been leaked out about the real reasons for his resignation.

Other Palestinian sources in Tunis, however, denied these resignations, noting that Shaqqur, for instance, is in Amman at present with the Palestinian president and is working normally and currently following Israeli elections affairs.

Meanwhile, in a telephone conversation with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, a high-ranking Palestinian source said that he doubted the reports that appear occasionally about transfer of the political leadership from Tunisia to some other Arab country such as Jordan. He said that a transfer of the political leadership's headquarters from Tunis to Amman was out of the question at present.

He said that such reports appear frequently whenever Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] pays a long visit to Jordan or Yemen. Such reports, he said, are unfounded, and such decisions require study and are made under normal and ordinary circumstances.

Syria, the source said, has so far not replied to our application for the reopening of Fatah and PLO offices in Damascus. Some press reports recently claimed that these offices had already been reopened.

Political Adviser Views Resistance, Peace Talks

NC2006145292 London MBC Television in Arabic 1720 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Interview with Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Tawfiq al-Jarwalit on the "The World This Week" program; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jarwalit] What is your current opinion about the intifadah, and how will it influence the so-called Middle East peace process?

[Abu-Sharif] The intifadah is the thundering sound of the battle resisting the occupation. As we engage in negotiations to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, we continue, in fact we are escalating, the resistance to unmask the real face of the Israeli enemy while denying it the opportunity of finding justifications for using weapons of mass destruction against our people.

The peace process is not merely a negotiating process. It is wrong to think that negotiations behind closed doors will end the occupation; the Palestinian people's resistance and international resolutions will do that. We expect President Bush and Russia to apply resolutions on international legitimacy the same way they are being applied in other cases. By the end of the year, we will see to what extent President Bush honors the promise he made at the Madrid summit, when he said that the government and authority will be handed over to the Palestinians by the end of the year.

[Al-Jarwalit] The agreement between the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, to bury their differences and cooperate in resisting the Israeli occupation in the occupied territories may escalate the intifadah, particularly since the two movements agreed on setting up a joint steering committee to unite their efforts.

[Abu-Sharif] The agreement between Hamas and Fatah means that the confrontation with the occupation in Gaza Strip and the West Bank will certainly escalate, because the efforts—however marginal they may have been—that were wasted on the political conflict will now be dedicated to confronting the occupation. This is particularly true in the case of Gaza, which is being subject to an unprecedented war of starvation, during which Palestinians are prevented from going to work and eventually from earning their day's bread.

We carry this news to our Arab and Muslim brothers so that we can escalate our resistance efforts. We hope our Arab and Muslim nation will support us against the arrogant enemy.

[Al-Jarwalit] There is a strong Palestinian inclination to ask the U.S. Administration not to set a date for the next round of bilateral negotiations, expected to be held in Rome before the end of August; that is, after the Israeli parliamentary elections and the formation of a new Israeli government. There is a consensus among the Palestinian leadership to ask Washington and Moscow to supervise the elections expected to be held in the occupied Arab territories by next October.

[Abu-Sharif] At the Madrid summit, President Bush said that by this November, authority will be handed to Palestinians in the occupied territories. Naturally, we say that Palestinians in the occupied territories are entitled to hold legislative elections to elect their representatives, who will, in turn, elect a panel that will eventually take over the authority Bush promised.

We have a right to exercise our own democracy. Israel boasts about democracy as it prepares for elections and in the meantime prevents freedom and democracy and stifles human rights. The United States, Russia, and the Western world in general advocate democracy and self-determination worldwide. We will, therefore, ask Washington and Moscow, the two sponsors of the peace process, to supervise the elections.

DFLP's Hawatimah Remarks on Peace Process

JN2006075892 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

[Report by Sana' 'Atiyah, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—Palestinian leader Nayif Hawatimah has urged the Palestinian and Arab parties involved in the Mideast peace process to take advantage of the interim period ahead of the next round of talks to reassess and strengthen strategy through reunifying the Palestinian political ranks and improving Arab coordination.

Mr. Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), also warned that if the talks continued on the "wrong track, then Palestinian rage" inside the occupied territories would explode.

In an interview with the Jordan Times on Thursday evening, Mr. Hawatimah called for an end to inter-Palestinian political divisions, particularly inside the occupied territories where Palestinian- Palestinian violence has become uncontrollable despite pleas made by leaders.

Mr. Hawatimah, whose group is not participating in the Arab- Israeli peace talks because of its rejection of Israeli-American conditions imposed on Palestinian participation, said from his Amman hotel room that while waiting for the formation of the new Israeli government after this week's elections, the Arab participants in the peace talks should reevaluate the direction in which the peace talks are heading.

"We should be critical and constructive in discovering the possibility of investing in this lost time that will serve the Palestinian people and the Arab countries to correct the next bilateral and multilateral negotiations," Mr. Hawatimah stressed.

He called on Palestinian political reunification according to the programme of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "based on a wide-ranged coalition front with democratic dialogue among the entire Palestinian people in order to reach a national common denominator based on international legality with a commitment from all Palestinian parties."

Mr. Hawatimah said that the peace talks so far have been distant from international resolutions, mainly Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, adding that the only referrence of the talks were based on the American letter of assurances before the talks were launched in Madrid last October.

The Palestinian leader, who arrived in Amman late last week, insisted that Palestinian participation in decision-making through democratic means was necessary to strengthen the Palestinian position in the peace process and "to put the train of negotiations on the right track of international resolutions."

Mr. Hawatimah warned that so long as the negotiations do not follow the track of international law, the anger of the Palestinian people would "explode" when they discover that the current track is leading to a dead end.

"The anger among the people is increasing around the train of the negotiations, and the only solution is retracking it towards international legality. Without this, the road is a dead end, there will be anger and lost peace," Mr. Hawatimah said.

The Palestinian leader is in Amman visiting PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is recuperating after a brain surgery. The DFLP leader will also meet with Jordanian and other Palestinian officials.

In his interview with the Jordan Times, he insisted that great efforts must be made to end the Palestinian-Palestinian violence and killings inside the ocupied territories.

"We must be courageous and critical about the situation in the occupied territories," Mr. Hawatimah said. "We all know the depth of the pain there with its political divisions, the killings and blind assassinations...and its reflection on the intifadah." Efforts must be made to improve the Palestinian-Palestinian relationship in order to strengthen the positive aspects of the uprising and to eliminate its negative dimensions, especially "the arbitrary killings."

He referred to popular meetings that were held in the West Bank and Gaza Strip where there was agreement on the need to stop the internal violence and solve problems through democratic means.

"There is a need," Mr. Hawatimah said, "to include all the political powers under the banner of the Unified Command of the Intifadah, including Hamas and the Islamic trends."

He also stressed that the relationship between the PLO leadership and the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation must be improved in the coming months, and urged an end to what he described as the "bureaucratic language that comes from far away and the export of bureaucratic orders." Mr. Hawatimah was obviously referring to orders made to the Palestinian leaders inside the occupied territories from Tunis.

The DFLP leader also criticised the PLO's policy in channelling its funds to the occupied territories, accusing the organisation of wasting millions of dollars on a "lazy and bureaucratic apparatus that has no function except creating small conspiracies while tens of thousands in the Gaza Strip are suffering from unemployment and hunger."

In his final analysis of the current PLO situation, particularly after Mr. 'Arafat's survival from a plane crash in Libya in April, Mr. Hawatimah emphasised the need to form a collective leadership where all political trends participate in the policymaking "as stipulated in the PLO's 1968 programme" instead of allowing "the bureaucratic and conservative wings in the PLO to take unilateral decisions."

"It was clear even before Mr. 'Arafat's plane crash that for our national cause to triumph, it needs the participation of all trends based on pluralism and democracy, and this cannot be done under the pressure of the bureaucratic wing of the PLO," Mr. Hawatimah said.

Mr. Hawatimah also proposed that until the new Israeli government is formed—"perhaps the peace talks could be delayed until the U.S. elections in November"—the present and future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship should be determined clearly once and for all without the "media storms created to distract the people." He was referring to individual Palestinian statements made since last October over forming a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation.

"It is necessary to delve into the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and discuss it seriously in its present and future form," Mr. Hawatimah said.

He added that the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship could go further than a confederation, but that this relationship, whatever form it takes, should be "laid on the ground."

"The important thing is that now is the time to determine and ensure that the future legal and constitutional relationship is built on a clear basis," Mr. Hawatimah said.

He added that the Arab parties to the peace talks should also take advantage of the coming months to "transform Arab coordination into practical terms." The Palestinian leader said that differences were increasing between the Arab parties, and referred to the last round of multilateral talks which were boycotted by some parties.

"Because the negotiating table is now in effect frozen pending the new Israeli and American governments," Mr. Hawatimah said, "these steps must be made to strengthen the Palestinian situation and the relationship between the four Arab participants during this lost time so that we do not distract ourselves with various imaginary projects."

Egypt

Sectarian Violence Sweeps Through Upper Egypt

State of Emergency, Curfew Imposed

NC2306185592 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Egyptian authorities imposed a state of emergency in Upper Egypt to confront sectarian acts of violence by armed fundamentalists. Security sources in Cairo said today that all approaches to Asyut Governorate were closed and that a curfew was imposed on certain quarters of Dayrut, where fundamentalists killed four people on Saturday [20 Jun].

Egyptian authorities sent 4,000 riot-combat soldiers to Asyut. The police set up checkpoints at the exits of villages in the governorate to prevent the wanted fundamentalists from escaping. Meanwhile, 2,000 soldiers searched the area.

Muslims Attack Copts

NC2106145592 Paris AFP in English 1409 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 21 (AFP) - Five people have been killed, including a policeman, and several buildings set on fire in a wave of sectarian violence that has swept Upper Egypt since Friday, police and newspaper reports said Sunday.

The troubles erupted after police shot dead two Muslim activists, 'Arafah Mahmud Darwish, 35, and Hani 'Abd-al-Rahman Qutb, 22. They had opened fire to disperse around 200 fundamentalists in Sanabu village, near the southern town of Asyut, after the crowd tried to attack houses and shops belonging to Coptic Christians.

On Saturday, another group of fundamentalists entered the village and shot dead two Copts, a doctor and a merchant. Three others were seriously wounded at a train station.

Newspapers reported that police intervened to arrest six of the assailants, but an officer was also killed and several other people hit by stray bullets.

In the nearby village of Dayrut, 450 kilometres (275 miles) south of Cairo, fundamentalists set fire to nine homes and five shops Sunday before calm was restored, police said.

The region, where Copts and Muslims live in roughly equal numbers, has since March been the scene of several clashes that have killed more than 20 people, most of them Copts.

'Extremist' Group Arrested

NC2106190492 Cairo MENA in English 1810 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Asyut, Egypt, June 21 (MENA)—The security agencies arrested today a group of extremist terrorists who committed in "Dayrut", Upper Egypt, yesterday acts of violence that claimed the lives of four citizens, including a police sergeant, and resulted in a casualty toll of six others, including the "Dayrut" police station [word indistinct].

A manhunt is under way upon Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al- Halim Musa's directives to arrest the other extremist culprits, who managed to escape.

According to Major General Hazim al-Shirbini, Asyut deputy security director, security conditions in Dayrut are calm and the security agencies are in full control there. The Dayrut events started last Friday after the Muslim noon congregation prayers.

Fundamentalists Arrested

NC2406113292 Paris AFP in English 1018 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 24 (AFP)—Egyptian security forces arrested a large number of Muslim fundamentalists in a 12-hour sweep along the eastern bank of the Nile in the Asyut region on Tuesday, AL- AHRAM reported.

The paper said there were fierce exchanges of fire as anti-riot troops backed by police patrol boats on the river swooped on Misra [as received] village.

Islamic zealots based there launched attacks last week on Coptic Christian communities in Dayrut and Sanabu on the other bank of the Nile. AL-AHRAM said they sacked 64 houses and stores.

The weekly paper AL-MUSAWWAR said the death toll had risen to six.

Hand Grenades Seized

NC2306090192 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Jun 92 pp 1, 12

[Text] Security authorities yesterday [17 June] seized two cardboard boxes containing many hand grenades and rocket projectiles that a bearded young man in Asyut possessed. The man escaped, and security forces are searching for him.

During a big campaign to find the second suspect in the assassination of Dr. Faraj 'Ali Fudah, Ashraf Sayyid Ibrahim, and the culprits behind the Sinbu incident [not further specified], an officer on duty at Asyut railway station became suspicious of the bearded youth and asked him to reveal the contents of the two boxes. The youth escaped while the officer was inspecting the boxes. He found 44 hand grenades, 52 rocket projectiles, and other explosives.

The fugitive, 'Ali Muhammad Ahmad, was on his way from Asyut to Jirja. His suspicions aroused, the head of the station's intelligence unit, Lieutenant Colonel Ahmad jabir Makari, asked him to produce his identification card, bearing number 15407-al-Fath Center of Asyut. The suspect escaped while the officer was checking the card.

The grenades are defense models, produced by military factories. A bag containing eight other grenades was also found in one of the cardboard boxes. The seized projectiles are cylindrical, antitank models.

The Military Prosecution Office ordered an Armed Forces committee be formed to examine the issue and determine from where the seized grenades and projectiles were smuggled.

In Ra's al-Barr, Dumyat Governorate, police arrested two youths: Muhammad Ahmad Mustafa 'As'us, a fisherman from 'Izbat al-Burj, born in 1964, and Sa'd Ahmad Muhammad 'Izz-al-Din, a carpenter from the village of Khayyatah, born in 1977. An explosive charge—three jars joined together, two of which were filled with nails, gun powder, and sulfur and the third with gasoline—was seized.

A police officer in Ra's al-barr police station near al-Jumhuriyah movie theater became suspicious of seven young men who were removing movie billboards. He arrested two while the other five fled. The two who were detained admitted that they tried to tear down the billboards and spatter the movie theater's facade with paint and that they prepared the explosive charge to throw at any police officer who tried to arrest them. They also admitted that they recently joined the Islamic groups.

A big campaign has been mounted to catch the fugitives: Carpenters 'Adil Muhammad al-Babili from Khayyatah, his brother Mahmud Muhammad al-Babili, Hani Salamah Abu-'id, and Muhammad al- Mutawalli Abu-'umar from Khayyatah, and Muhammad Zakariyya al-Fayyumi from 'Izbat al-Khayyatah.

The prosecution office has begun its investigation.

Results of Israeli Elections Draw Reaction

Musa 'Full of Hope' on Peace Talks

NC2406113792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Paris, 24 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa commented about the Israeli election result and the Labor Party victory. He said: The important point now, after the Israeli voter has had his say, is that the new government goes to the peace process with a positive attitude in accordance with the principle of land for peace. It is important for that government to resume negotiations as soon as possible to implement this principle to resolve the Palestine question and to find a peaceful and just settlement in accordance with Resolution 242 and the principle of land for peace.

Musa, who is currently in Dakar, stated in a recording carried by the Arabic Radio l'Orient in Paris, that while the Israeli voter is casting his vote in favor of one of the Israeli parties or trends, he is actually voting either for or against the peace process and the establishment of peace on the basis of land for peace.

Musa added: I am full of hope that the negotiations will resume and the peace process will enter an active stage to reach a peaceful and just settlement as soon as possible. He said: At any rate, we hope and expect there to be greater leniency in the negotiations.

Al-Baz Peace Process Remarks Noted

NC2406081892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0737 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, expressed Egypt's hope that the Israeli people's decision in yesterday's elections will push the Middle East peace effort forward.

In a statement today, commenting about the results of the Israeli elections, Dr. al-Baz said he hoped the decision would lead to exploiting the golden opportunity of realizing a historic reconciliation between Israel and the Arabs and reach a just and permanent settlement of the Palestine question.

Dr. al-Baz said Egypt hopes to work with all the sides involved to revitalize the peace negotiations and put them in a position to realize the desired result as soon as possible.

'Sweeping' Labor Victory Viewed

NC2406082092 Cairo MENA in English 0627 GMT 24 Jun 92

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Cairo, June 24 (MENA)—The results of the Israeli parliamentary elections as announced by Israeli TV are highlighted by Cairo press.

In the first count of votes the Labour Party led by Yitzhaq Rabin captured 47 seats of the 120-seat Knesset while the Likud led by Yitzhaq Shamir got 33 seats.

"AL-AKHBAR" termed the results as "Sweeping and surprise victory for the Labour", and "AL-AHRAM" noted that the outcome will enable the Labour to form the new Israeli Government in alliance with the small parties. They further noted that this in turn will accelerate progress of the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace talks.

In the first official reaction on the part of Egypt, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the results of the Israeli elections will have their impact on the peace process, Cairo press said.

Musa Briefs Mubarak on Upcoming OAU Summit

NC2206172292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1456 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Alexandria, 22 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa this afternoon at al-Muntazah Palace.

After the meeting, Musa said he briefed President Mubarak about the topics to be discussed during the next African summit conference, which will be held in the Senegalese capital, as well as the meetings of the Organization of African Unity's Ministerial Council.

Musa, who will leave Cairo tomorrow for Dakar, said that some of the most important topics the African summit will discuss are the developments and situation in South Africa; the situation in Somalia and the Horn of Africa; the OAU's role in the new world order and the efforts it can make to avert or resolve African disputes. The African summit will also discuss the latest developments on the black continent and African economic cooperation to confront new economic developments, especially regarding the environment, economic aid, and international economic groupings.

'Violent' Incidents in South Africa Condemned

NC2206103792 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Egypt is following the past few days' violent incidents in South Africa with concern and strongly condemns those behind the action.

The Foreign Ministry's official spokesman called for an end to the violent acts that are now threatening the peaceful process of change toward the elimination of racial discrimination in South Africa.

The spokesman also called on all parties to abandon violence and to hasten the new society based on democracy and equality among the South African people.

He stated that Egypt supports this peaceful process, backs the sincere efforts of the national forces in South Africa to ensure their success, and calls on the South African Government to cooperate with these efforts.

Lebanese Speaker al-Husayni Pays Visit

Meets Speaker al-Surur

NC2106131692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Ahmad Fathi Surur today met with Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, who is currently visiting Cairo. Dr. Surur stressed Egypt's firm and principled policy based on establishing peace in the Middle East. He said that the peace Egypt seeks is based on international legitimacy. Dr. Fathi Surur affirmed that Egypt condemns Israel's practices inside the occupied Arab territories.

Al-Husayni expressed his and Lebanon's appreciation for the major role Egypt and President Mubarak are playing to achieve Arab consensus. He expressed hope that the international community, especially the United States, will implement Security Council Resolution 425 and the al-Ta'if conference resolutions to attain security and stability throughout Lebanon.

Meets With Musa

NC2106145492 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and delegation to discuss events in southern Lebanon and ways to restore peace and realize an Israeli withdrawal in accordance with Resolution 425.

Both sides also discussed bilateral relations and the need to strengthen these relations due to the strong and distinguished ties that have always linked Egypt and Lebanon. They also discussed Lebanon's needs during the coming phase of reconstruction.

Al-Husayni on Hostage Issue

NC2206073592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni praised relations between Egypt and Lebanon. He said there is nothing new in Egyptian and Lebanese interest in regional issues. Officials conduct continuous consultations and exchange views for the two countries' mutual benefit and for that of the Arab nation.

Al-Husayni told MENA that Egypt plays a big and influential role in Arab affairs and noted Egypt's important role in reviving Arab solidarity.

On the release of the last two hostages in Lebanon, al-Husayni said that the absence of official authority over Lebanese territory had made violations and people's detention possible. He said his country denounces the kidnapping of anyone, Lebanese or not. He said the hostages issue was a vital one, concerning Lebanese sovereignty.

Al-Husayni praised the Lebanese Government's and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's position on the hostages issue. He also praised Iran's efforts, noting that Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati's recent visit to Beirut helped solve the hostage problem. Al-Husayni said Lebanon does not link the hostages issue with aid to Lebanon. We have rejected such a link, he said.

He said militia members were absorbed into the Lebanese Army, as provided by the Security Plan.

The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies speaker was optimistic about rebuilding Lebanon to assume its role in the Arab rank. He also said he was optimistic about restoring Arab solidarity.

Al-Husayni arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit that will last until Thursday and during which he will meet several Egyptian officials.

Meets Mubarak, Comments on Talks

NC2206175292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Alexandria, 22 Jun (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak met with this afternoon Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and delegation at al-Muntazah Palace. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Lebanese Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh attended the meeting.

In statements to the press after the meeting, al-Husayni said that his talks with President Mubarak dealt with developments in Lebanon, particualrly in the south, in light of the domestic reconciliation process and the need to implement the UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 425.

The Lebanese speaker added that the talks also touched on the economic situation and the role Egypt could paly, in view of its influence and weight with Arab countries and international bodies, in ensuring assistance to Lebanon so it can continue the peace process it already has begun.

Al-Husayni thanked President Mubarak for his attention to the Lebanese issue and his efforts to consolidate security and stability in Lebanon since the Casablanca summit [in May 1989].

Foreign Minister Musa said that both sides discussed the latest developments in Lebanon; future Egyptian-Lebanese relations; the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon; and the Arab and international efforts to establish peace in Lebanon.

Views Israel, Ties With Syria, Iran

NC2306193592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1653 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Lebanese Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni today addressed members of the People's Assembly Arab Affairs Committee, saying that his country has succeeded in aborting the scheme for sectarian sedition concocted by Israel. Al-Husayni said that the Lebanese are one people and that the sectarian plurality is a source of richness and not a scourge for Lebanon.

The Lebanese speaker said that Lebanese unity is the hallmark of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, which includes representatives from all sects. He added that Lebanon seeks to establish a lawful system of government with an effective legal system, where sectarian politics, but not the sects, would disappear.

The Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, al-Husayni pointed out, is currently reviewing various laws to abolish loopholes that caused foreign, particularly Israeli, intervention in Lebanese affairs.

Al-Husayni said he came to Egypt to explain Lebanon's dire need for the financial assistance approved at earlier Arab summits for Lebanon's development and reconstruction program. He added that Egypt has international weight it can use with the United States to make it pressure Israel to implement UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Lebanese south.

The Lebanese official said that the consolidation of Egyptian-Syrian relations is in Lebanon's interest, adding that Lebanese-Syrian relations are also of vital importance. He noted that Syria has approximately 50,000 soldiers in Lebanon and that it is the only country that supplies military assistance to the Lebanese Army. Syria has provided Lebanon with considerable assistance, he said.

The Lebanese speaker said Syria is honoring its commitments to the al-Ta'if agreement. He added that there is no Lebanese who does not look forward to extending the state's sovereignty through a strong army and evacuating foreign troops, but it is not suitable for the Syrian Army to withdraw from Lebanon as long as the Lebanese Army is not strong enough to extend its control all over the country.

Concerning Lebanese-Iranian relations, al-Husayni said Iran is a major regional country and a factor in regional security issues. Therefore, he added, Arab-Iranian relations should be restructured to make Iranian capabilities benefit the Arabs.

Al-Husayni said Israel keeps raising the Hizballah issue, but the latter is part of the Lebanese resistance that was established prior to the Iranian revolution. [sentence as received] He added that the Lebanese state is not prepared to halt resistance against Israel in the south until a program for Israel's withdrawal from the south is drawn up.

The Lebanese speaker said that the Lebanese elections will be held and that the government has prepared plans to hold these elections in the near future to end the problem of parliamentary representation in the country.

Al-Husayni concluded by saying that Lebanon is committed to the Palestinian cause and to helping the Palestinian people achieve a solution in the framework of joint Arab strategy.

Oman's Sultan Bin-Sa'id, Delegation Pay Visit

Views Damascus Declaration With Musa

NC2206180292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1458 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Alexandria, 22 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held a meeting this afternoon at the Palestine Hotel in Alexandria with Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, who is currently visiting Egypt as part of the delegation accompanying Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

After the meeting, Musa said that during the meeting they discussed ways to bolster and develop bilateral cooperation in various fields. They also discussed the latest developments regarding the Damascus Declaration. The Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers are expected to meet in September in Doha.

Musa said he and the Omani foreign minister discussed the future of Arab relations in general and the situation in the Gulf region in particular, in view of recent international and regional developments.

Meets With Mubarak

NC2406075392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Alexandria, 23 Jun (MENA)—Arab leaders Husni Mubarak and Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman held a round of talks at the al-Muntazah Palace today.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that both leaders discussed the international changes and their impact on the Arab situation and Arab, Islamic, and regional issues. He said that both leaders also discussed Arab relations in view of recent developments, including the Damascus Declaration; the Libyan-Western dispute; the situation in southern Lebanon; and the ongoing efforts to make progress in the next round of the Middle East peace talks.

President Mubarak and Sultan Qabus held an expanded round of talks yesterday evening, attended by members of the Egyptian and Omani delegations.

Turkish Health Minister Makes Official Visit

Health Cooperation Protocol Signed

TA2206192292 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] A health cooperation protocol was signed between Turkey and Egypt in Cairo today.

Health Minister Yildirim Aktuna, who is on an official visit to Egypt, met with Deputy Prime Minister Kamal al-Janzuri. Al-Janzuri asked him if Turkey can mediate in establishing relations with the Asian Turkic republics. Aktuna pointed out that there is a health protocol between these countries and Turkey promised to support Egypt.

Later, Aktuna met with Egyptian Health Minister Muhammad al- Duwaydar.

The talks between the Turkish and Egyptian delegations were headed by the two ministers.

Under the protocol, Turkey and Egypt will develop their commercial, economic, scientific, and technical cooperation in the health field. A team of experts to be established for this purpose will meet once a year. The protocol also envisages both countries supporting investments in Third World countries in the fields of medical equipment, medicine, and medical supplies.

Aktuna Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2406084992 Cairo MENA in English 0715 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 24 (MENA)—Turkish Minister of Health and Social Security Dr. Yildirim Aktuna left here this morning for home winding up a four-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of Health Minister Dr. Raghib Duwaydar.

The Turkish minister held talks during his visit on spheres of health cooperation between Egypt and Turkey.

Algerian Information Official Arrives for Visit

NC2206091192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Ali Abdelaoui, chairman of the Algerian Higher Information Council, arrived in Cairo this evening, heading a large media delegation. He is visiting Egypt for several days at the invitation of Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, with whom he will discuss ways to strengthen information relations between both countries.

In a statement upon arrival, the Algerian official said that the purpose of his visit is to acquaint himself with the progress made by the Egyptian media in various fields during the past 10 years.

Libyan Source Denies Egyptian Workers Harassed

NC2206125392 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 18 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] A responsible source at the Egyptian Embassy in Tripoli denied that Egyptians working in Libya were subjected to harassment.

Minister Plenipotentiary Mahmud Isma'il told AL-WAFD that there were no complaints by Egyptians of harassment by Libyans following the imposition of sanctions on Libya and the Libyan media campaign against Egypt and the Arab countries.

Editorial Views Libyan 'Wave of Anger' on Arabs

NC2206062492 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 19 Jun 92 p 3

[Editorial by Makram Muhammad Ahmad: "The Green Book Disciples"]

[Text] It is very difficult to find yourself in a confrontation with a friend when he is going through a difficult ordeal. You try to help him out of his impasse and extend a hand to help him safely through his ordeal, but he refuses to see the truth. He refuses to see or admit his mistakes or to ask himself why everyone has abandoned him and he is alone in his ordeal. Instead of trying to discover the reasons for his ordeal, he blames everyone; he holds everyone responsible for letting him down, even those who stood by him and tried to help him out of his difficult impasse. This is our problem with our Libyan friend.

We have stood by our Libyan friend as a neighbor, brother, and in-law. We did our best to protect him from a storm meant to destroy him. We offered sincere advice to help him emerge safely from his impasse. We did not ask him to make a decision or impose anything on him against his will. All of our efforts focused on curbing those who sought to destroy him.

Our Libyan friend knows that we flatly rejected a military solution to the crisis over the Lockerbie incident. The Americans ruled out a military solution because of our efforts.

Our Libyan friend knows that we flatly rejected a land blockade against the Libyan people as part of the sanctions package. The sanctions passed by the Security Council are marginal in scope because of our efforts.

Our Libyan friend knows that, thanks to our efforts, an opportunity was created for peaceful negotiations to solve the crisis, when Britain and Libya met in Geneva. It seems, however, that there are those in Libya who, for their own reasons, want to keep the Libyan people blindfolded so that they cannot see the truth.

The popular committee meetings were suddenly gripped by a wave of anger blaming all Arabs, including Egypt, for leaving Libya alone to confront Western sanctions and threats. The "Green Book" disciples, the self-appointed advocates of Arab unity, completely reversed their position. They declared that they have no faith in Arabism, because the Arabs betrayed Libya and called for an alliance with Israel, the United States, or even the devil if it would serve their interests.

A Libyan newspaper, pretending to have freedom of expression, blamed the colonel for not learning the lesson, continuing to follow the mirage of unity, and pulling down the borders with Egypt so that Libyans learned racketeering and trade in currencies! Three days later the same paper published an article exempting Egypt from the planned wave of anger against the Arabs and Arabism.

It is very difficult to find yourself in a confrontation with a friend when he is going through a difficult ordeal. But what can you do if this friend does not want to learn? Instead of being honest with himself, he tilts at windmills and does not recognize the causes of his difficult ordeal. What is currently taking place in Libya is a comedy by any standard, illustrating the failure of the director and actors. Everyone knows that the parts are fabricated and that what is happening in the popular committees and the Libyan press could not take place without the approval of a novice director who insults the intelligence of the audience.

The abrupt attack against Egypt and the Arabs was premeditated and sanctioned, as was the later decision to exclude Egypt from this attack. This was part of a bad performance that lacks a theme. If the objective of this sudden attack is to provide an excuse for handing over the two Libyans—because the Arabs let Libya down and left it alone to confront Western sanctions and threats—the objective is utterly naive and the message is very poor.

The Arabs did not leave Libya alone. They urged Libya to make any decision affecting Libyan interests in the context of changing international circumstances, but the Libyan leaders stumbled. Had our Libyan friend been fair to himself and to the truth, he would have seen the enormous support the Arab press gave the Libyan position. Despite disagreeing with a great deal of the Libyan policy, the Egyptian press adopted a sound pan-Arab stand. It warned the Americans against attacking Libya, highlighting the great difference between what happened in the Gulf and the Libyan crisis. It called on the West to assess the situation carefully and consider the possible Arab popular reaction if it insisted on a military solution. The Egyptian press questioned the fairness of the new world order if it meant using two yardsticks and disregarding Arab rights. The Arab press adopted the same position, warning of possible confrontation between the West and the Arabs if the Americans miscalculated. No one wants this confrontation.

The Arabs did well in trying to contain the dispute between the West and Libya. Widening the dispute to the point of an Arab- Western confrontation would not serve any Arab goal, but only Arab adversaries. Containing the dispute presented the opportunity for a peaceful settlement to preserve the rights of all parties. The "Green Book" disciples, armed only with big words and empty slogans, wanted an all-out confrontation with the West.

Instead of tilting at windmills, the Libyan popular committees should have asked themselves several good questions. Why was Libya isolated? Why has Libya's image in the whole world deteriorated to the point of losing credibility? What was the reason for the Arab coolness toward the Libyan regime's behavior? Was it a sound policy to interfere in other countries' affairs, harshly criticize all regimes, and endorse policies of division and classification when circumstances required closing Arab ranks and renouncing all divisive factors? Had the Libyans asked these important questions, they would not have launched their sudden campaign against Egypt or directed their anger at the Arabs. There would have been no reason for this bad performance which further confuses Arabs about what is happening in fraternal Libya.

Mubarak Attends National Democratic Party Meeting

NC2106155592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today attended a meeting of the National Democratic Party's [NDP] parliamentary group in the Consultative Council. The meeting was held at the conference hall of the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics and was attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the deputy prime ministers, and other ministers.

After the meeting, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak congratulated the Consultative Council's members who had won seats in the midterm elections. He emphasized his appreciation of the council's role, noting its exhaustive reports and studies on the bills referred to it. He said that the Consultative Council is one of the pillars of Egypt's democratic process.

During the meeting, President Mubarak answered questions about cooperation between the Council and the Cabinet. He explained that the public's demands are given full consideration and the ministers wish to solve all national problems as long as this does not conflict with the country's general interest.

Asked about the Libyan-Western crisis, the president noted that Egypt has made great efforts since the beginning of the crisis, moved in the right direction, and used sound methods that are in line with the Egyptian's people national interests and pan-Arab interests. He said that in doing so, Egypt used its international relations, influence, and respect. He noted that Egypt is a major country that rises above errors committed by individuals. Nations, he added, are capable of seeing and appreciating Egypt's historic positions. When Egypt uses its good offices, he continued, it does not impose its views on others. He added that whenever Egypt makes a decision, it does so after proper consideration and an assessment of all the international and regional ramifications of that decision.

Mubarak discussed the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, saying that Egypt is making international efforts, through international organizations and in concert with Arab and Islamic countries and the Islamic Conference Organization, to help resolve the situation.

Commenting about the new world order, the president noted that the world's map is still being redrawn following recent international changes and the USSR's collapse. He said this map is not yet finished in Eastern Europe and the CIS, adding: This makes it necessary for us to adopt wise, reasonable, and prudent decisions and to always take the international implications into account.

The president discussed the current demands to pass an antiterrorism law, telling the group that the Emergency Law, currently used to fight terrorism, has not been used against politicians, political party excesses, or to close down newspapers. He explained that the purpose of this law is to expedite procedures in prosecuting terrorists. A special committee is currently studying an antiterrorism bill, he added.

The information minister said that President Mubarak asserted that true Islam does not include violence, does not impose views by coercion, or smother varied opinion. Indeed, he continued, Islam is the religion of tolerance and peaceful call. He added that violence will never succeed in imposing terrorism on society, because the Egyptian people are enlightened; reject conspiracies against their security and stability; and distinguish between piety, which is an Egyptian characteristic, and extremism, which uses violence to terrorize society and undermine its stability.

In addition, Mubarak discussed the peace negotiations and their link with the upcoming Israeli elections, saying: We must wait until the elections are over and a new Israeli government is formed before we begin active moves to boost the peace process to obtain legitimate Arab and Palestinian rights.

President Mubarak explained that the Egyptian economy is gradually developing, emphasizing that economic reform is inevitable and necessary and that delays would be catastrophic. As an example, he mentioned states whose economy has been suffering because they have tried to reform their economies too late. He said that the next few years will be better and that any increase in gas prices will be dictated by necessities.

President Mubarak said that there will be no increase of diesel oil prices this year, but these prices might gradually increase in the coming years within the framework of the economic reform plan. He explained that despite the economic reform measures that have been taken so far, total fuel subsidies amount to approximately 11 billion Egyptian pounds annually.

The prices of commodities, he added, will be increased only after an in-depth study and only if necessary. He called for population growth control, saying that unbridled growth is the main cause for the existing economic imbalance. Egypt's population increased by 14 million in 10 years, he said.

President Mubarak said that we have made great strides in the long march toward economic reform. We will not stop or retreat. We progress more every day, he said, adding: The economic reform policy is gradual and well-studied and will achieve economic balance and stability in the next three years. He noted that the money market bill that is currently being discussed by the People's Assembly is part of the policy to reform and liberalize the economy.

Mubarak explained that the method of gradualism that Egypt pursued in implementing the economic reform policy is correct; if the reform policy was implemented in one fell swoop, society would not have been able to stand it. For example, Mubarak used incidents in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, where gasoline prices increased from 42 coupons to 600 coupons, meat from 2 rubles to the official price of 17 rubles and the free market price of between 1500 and 2000 rubles, and shoes from 45 rubles to 2500 rubles. All this happened due to the delay in adopting economic reforms and maintaining subsides.

Giving examples of some achievements made in the field of economic reform, Mubarak said that the total industrial output increased from 9 billion Egyptian pounds in 1981-82 to 51 billion pounds in 1991-92. The total agricultural output increased from 5 billion pounds to 30 billion pounds during the same period. Deposits with banks increased from 14 billion to 101 billion pounds. He added that 12 new cities and over 1 million housing units have been built in the past 10 years, compared with 730,000 units during 1972-82. Without these efforts, he concluded, society would have been suffering from a real population explosion.

Mubarak Appoints 45 Consultative Council Members

NC2306103692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jun (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak issued a republican decree this evening appointing 45 public figures to the Consultative Council. They include writer and journalist Ibrahim Sa'dah, chairman of the board of directors and chief editor of AKHBAR AL-YAWM; writer and journalist Anis Mansur; Dr. 'Abd-al- Salam 'Abd-al-Ghaffar, president of 'Ayn Shams University; Dr. 'Ali Lutfi, former Consultative Council speaker; Dr. Mahir Mahran, rapporteur of the National Population Council; writer and journalist Salah-al-Din Muntasir, chairman of the board of director of DAR AL- MA'ARIF and chief editor of UKTUBAR; Dr. Mamduh al-Biltaji, head of the State Information Department; Dr. Sabri al-Shabrawi, head of the National Democratic Party [NDP] Development Committee; and Dr. Mufid Shihab, a professor of international law.

There are nine women among the new appointees, including actress Aminah Rizq; writer and journalist Sakinah Fu'ad, chief editor of RADIO AND TELEVISION magazine; Dr. Farakhandah Hasan, professor of science at Cairo University, Dr. Hamdiyah Zahran, vice president of Hulwan University; and Dr. Samihah al-Qalyubi, professor of law at Cairo University.

The Consultative Council will meet on 24 June to elect a speaker and two deputy speakers. The NDP parliamentary committee nominated former speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi to be the new speaker.

Interior Minister Remarks on National Stability

NC2006200192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that extremism and terrorism threaten the principles of freedom and democracy as much as they threaten national security and stability. He said that security is our responsibility, just as it is the responsibility of every Egyptian citizen. He added that if the citizen loses his security, he will lose his freedom. These comments came in an address Musa gave to the People's Assembly today about the assassination of Egyptian writer Dr. Faraj Fudah and the recent clash in Heliopolis between security forces and a dangerous thug, Tariq Muhammad Imam, and his father, a retired police officer. The two were killed in a shoot-out with policemen who were trying to arrest these dangerous, armed thugs for intimidating several large hotels in Cairo and al-Jizah.

Musa told the Assembly that the terrorist legislation needs to be reviewed, saying: This step is necessary if we want to resolve the issue of extremism and terrorism and stop threats to Egypt's security, national unity, and social peace. He added that security is our responsibility, just as it is the responsibility of every citizen. Those who are afraid about possible threats to freedoms—regardless of how much we assure them to the contrary—must be able to balance the loss of freedom and the actual threat. They must always remember that if the citizen loses his security, he loses his freedom as well.

The interior minister added that experience has shown that some of the guarantees provided by the emergency law are being exploited to assist extremists and terrorists in carrying out their activities in undermining security and stability.

He cited a provision in the emergency law that a suspect cannot be held for more than 45 days without being charged, saying: What can we do when we are sure that crimes of terrorism or extremism will be committed after we let a suspect out and we cannot do anything? If we rearrest the suspect, hell will be raised.

Musa noted that 'Abd-al-Shafi Ramadan, arrested in connection with the assassination of Dr. Faraj Fudah, was previously detained under the emergency law. Security authorities, however, had to release him, because they did not have sufficient evidence before the maximum term of detention, 45 days, expired. Musa added that the security authorities released the defendant and a few hundred equally dangerous suspects knowing full well that they were planning assassinations and sabotage operations and would resume their destructive activity as soon as they had a chance to do so.

Some people, Musa added, suggest that instead of rearresting those released, we should keep them under surveillance. My response is that no security service in the world can keep thousands of dangerous suspects under close surveillance night and day for years.

In his statement, the interior minister stated that Islam's pure essence, its noble principles, and its broad-minded view of life and humanity provide the most powerful method of confronting violence and extremism. He stated that the rise of violence and extremism reveals that more and more we need to follow the teachings of the heavenly religions and positively and effectively promote awareness and enlightening. By so doing, he added, we will close all the windows that the extremist elements sneak through to deceive and ensnare youngsters.

Musa reviewed the details of the assassination of Dr. Faraj Fudah and the violent confrontation that occurred between a dangerous criminal and his father and the police.

Economy Minister Departs 23 Jun for Beijing Talks

NC2406075292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1751 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Economy Minister Dr. Yusri Mustafa left Cairo for Beijing this evening. He heads a delegation of Egyptian businessmen on a 6-day visit to China.

In a statement upon departure, he said he will discuss with Chinese officials ways to promote trade and economic ties between both countries, exchanging expertise, and expanding trade and investment transactions, especially regarding small and medium industries.

He added that he will also lecture at some Chinese universities about current Egyptian economic policy.

Column Says U.S. Supreme Court Decision 'Strange'

NC2306085992 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Jun 92 p 16

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab: "U.S. Kidnapping"]

[Text] The ruling issued a few days ago by the U.S. Supreme Court that approves the right of the United States to "kidnap" anyone it wants from any part of the world is very strange.

The United States appointed itself sole policeman of the world, and that is that. Any lowly person can be placed before a U.S. court if he is suspected of something.

What sort of justice allows this? What human rights are they talking about? And how can countries destroy their own sovereignty in such a disgraceful manner?

The Supreme Court decision stipulates sending U.S. intelligence agents to kidnap people suspected of involvement in terrorist acts or drug dealing and bringing them to Washington for trial.

Three judges refused to vote in favor of the decision, because the issue of suspicion is very elastic and can therefore be very badly exploited. In addition, agreeing on the principle itself means recognizing the United States as the absolute ruler, which is rejected by any standards, regardless of the pretexts and justifications.

Constitution Said 'Incompatible' With Democracy

NC2306103492 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 15 Jun 92 p 14

["A Thought" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] We have great dreams for our country. We want to build a skyscraper over the ruins of the past. First, we have to remove the rubble; otherwise, our building will not stand.

We admitted the disasters that befell us, but some among us still believe that we should hold on to these disasters. Therefore, we hold on to victory and defeat at the same time. We keep 6 October [1973] and 5 June [1967] in the same basket. We cannot be both victorious and vanquished. Nor can we be leftist and rightist at the same time. We have to get rid of the old Constitution, under which we have erred and brought disasters upon ourselves.

For example, we do not want to elect the president by referendum but by direct elections. Nor do we want the presidential candidate to be named by the People's Assembly but by the people. And we do not want that candidate to run unchallenged. We believe that every citizen has the right to run for president.

We do not want a constitution that allows government employees to be members of the People's Assembly, for this means that a government employee, who is subordinate to the minister, is required, as a parliamentary deputy, to evaluate the work of that minister.

We do not want a constitution that differentiates among citizens by granting workers and peasants 50 percent of the parliamentary seats. The principle underlying such a differentiation is one that we have always ignored, for we have never allocated half the Cabinet seats to the peasants and workers.

We do not want a constitution that deprives parliament of the right to control the state's budget, a parliamentary tradition everywhere else.

It is the right of anyone who so wishes to declare that the current Constitution is the best under the sun. It is equally our right to say that this Constitution is incompatible with the current climate of democracy.

It is normal for the people to draw up a constitution restricting the ruler. It is not normal for the ruler to write a constitution restricting the people.

Libya

Further on General People's Congress Session

Trial Abroad for Bombing Suspects Allowed

NC2306181592 Paris AFP in English 1805 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Surt, Libya, June 23 (AFP) - The Libyan parliament said on Tuesday it would allow the Lockerbie bombing suspects to be heard by a "fair and just" court chosen by the United Nations or the Arab League in agreement with Tripoli.

The decision, announced after 10 days of debate by the Libyan parliament, did not clearly indicate whether Libya would be willing to hand over 'Abd-al-Basit Muhammad al-Megrahi and Al-Amin Khalifah Fahimah to the United Nations or the Arab League ahead of their possible trial.

But, observers said, it showed that Tripoli was prepared to let their trial be held abroad.

"Libya ... does not object to having the investigation and the trial undertaken by a fair and just court chosen in agreement with the seven-member Arab League commission or the United Nations," the parliament said.

The pair are wanted by the United States and Britain, where they are accused of involvement in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am plane over Lockerbie, Scotland that left 270 people dead.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has declared that the People's Congress, or parliament, would decide whether to surrender the pair to the West.

The United Nations Security Council on April 15 slapped an air traffic, arms and diplomatic embargo on Tripoli after its failure to hand over the suspects.

The Libyan parliament also stressed Tripoli's "readiness to cooperate fully to find a peaceful solution" to its dispute with the West.

It also urged the UN Security Council to scrap its sanctions against Tripoli and called on Britain and the United States to re-establish diplomatic relations with Libya.

Congress Adopts Resolutions

LD2306185892 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1640 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Draft resolutions adopted by the Libyan General People's Congress (GPC) meeting in Surt; read by GPC Secretary 'Abd al-Razzaq Saw'sa—live]

[Text] Today's session reviewed what the committees achieved at this Congress in terms of the planning committee; the finance and general issues committee; the productive sectors committee; the human resources committee; and the infrastructure committee. We submitted the draft resolutions to you, and you commented about them and approved them as we read them to you. If you have no objections, it is important to reread them. All of your comments were considered. What remains is the final item, if you agree to this. Let us know what you think.

The fifth committee item remains, namely the foreign policy item.

Concerning the follow-up about implementing the Basic People's Congress [BPC] resolutions drafted at the GPC in its second ordinary session, the BPC followed up their resolutions drafted at the GPC in its second ordinary session for the year 1991 and decided to back the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau with what enables it to perform its tasks.

3. [figure as heard] Follow-up on implementing the general budget for 1991-1992: The BPC followed up implementation of the general budget for 1991-1992 and resolved the need to adhere to the adopted budget and uphold the GPC decision to make appointments only in accordance with the adopted cadre.

4. Preparation of the general budget for 1992-1993: The BPC debated preparation of the general budget for 1992-1993 and approved it within the confines of the state's general budget.

5. Results of the brother leader of the revolution's visits to sisterly and friendly states: The BPC reviewed the results of the brother leader of the revolution's visits to sisterly and friendly states and resolved the following:

a. To express their full satisfaction with the positive results of those visits;
b. To entrust the people's committees, each within its own competence, to program and to implement what came of those visits;
c. To entrust the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau to follow up implementation of these visits and consider them a continuing program of action for the Bureau.

6. Results of the visits by the heads of state of sisterly and friendly states to the Great Jamahiriyah: The BPC reviewed the memorandum about the visits by the heads of state of sisterly and friendly states to the great Jamahiriyah during 1991 and resolved:

a. To work for implementing the results yielded by those visits in a way that consolidates the relationship with those states and the peoples of the world;
b. To entrust the People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation to follow up those results in a way that ensures the common interest.

7. Report of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation and Activities of the Brotherhood Bureaus Abroad: The BPC reviewed the report of the People's Bureau for

External Liaison and International Cooperation containing the activities of the brotherhood bureaus and people's bureaus abroad. They showed satisfaction and decided the following:

a. To expand opening people's bureaus to strengthen relations with peoples and spread the jamahiriy spirit, together with serious and continuous follow-up of these bureaus;

b. To focus on choosing competent elements for work abroad and commitment to the conditions fixed by the BPC;

c. To invite the Arab states to commit themselves to the Arab League Charter and the agreements signed within its framework and to work for their implementation to realize Arab economic unity and to incite the Arab Maghreb Union to develop Union institutions to guarantee respect for the agreements signed by its members;

d. To consider the positions of all states to the unjust campaign to which the great Jamahiriyah is being subjected when dealing with them in the future in all fields;

e. To urge foreign media to point out and explain the political and intellectual positions of the great Jamahiriyah and to inform the world that authority in the Jamahiriyah is in the hands of the people;

f. To oblige the people's bureaus to offer services and care for Libyan Arab citizens abroad and to work to resolve their problems.

g. To strengthen the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation materially and morally to enable it to perform its role in the best way.

8. At their second ordinary session for the year 1400 from the death of the prophet—corresponding to 1991—the BPC reviewed the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation memorandum on the U.S., British, and French threats to the Great Jamahiriyah.

While affirming the Libyan Arab people's adherence to international laws and conventions and its firm conviction to solve problems and disputes peacefully, the BPC affirm their rejection of threats and sanctions; affirm their condemnation of all forms of international terrorism, regardless of origin; and call for adopting effective international measures to resist it.

They value the extensive, continuous efforts to find a peaceful and just solution to the crisis that ensures that the truth will emerge in this case.

They declare that the Libyan Arab people seek peace and are working for it; have offered practical initiatives at all regional and international forums; and have contacted brothers and friends and all specialized international organizations through people's institutions with the aim of averting any escalation and confrontation and arriving at a peaceful settlement based on international laws and conventions.

The BPC decides:

a. To affirm their adherence to the principles and objectives of the great 1 September revolution under the leadership of brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi...[applause, interrupting]; their full preparedness to defend its accomplishments and achievements, which have been realized thanks to the revolution; and their rejection of all threats to the independence and sovereignty of the Libyan Arab people and to their freedom.

b. To salute the efforts of fraternal Arabs—kings, presidents, amirs, parliaments, organizations, trade unions, federations, and parties—which have demonstrated the unity and soldarity of the Arab nation with the Libyan Arab people.

c. The BPC lauds the Arab League and the role played by the secretary general as well as the efforts of the seven-man ministerial committee stemming from the Arab League that took charge of defending the Great Jamahiriyah.

d. The BPC highly prizes the efforts of the Islamic Conference Organization and its secretary general, the Organization of African Unity, and the Nonaligned Movement.

e. The BPC hails the international position that has been sympathetic to the Great Jamahiriyah in the face of official international terrorism to which it was subjected. The BPC also hails its wise decision, which is compatible with international law, to resort to the International Court of Justice, on the other hand, and to deal with the issue in a wise and civilized manner lauded and praised by international public opinion.

f. The BPC reiterates anew its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and shapes and reaffirms that there are no dealings with any terrorist organizations or groups in the world and their willingness to contribute to any international efforts to eradicate terrorism and to deal with its roots.

g. The BPC affirms the full preparedness of the Great Jamahiriyah to cooperate with all the efforts being made to clarify the facts about the bombing of the American Pan Am and French UTA airplanes and expresses its sympathy to the families of the victims.

h. At a time when the BPC affirms that they are sticking to the two Libyan penal and legal procedure laws, they do not object to an investigation and trial held through the seven-man committee constituted by the Arab League, or through the UN organization before a just and fair court to be agreed upon.

i. The BPC urges concerned Western states to respond to the positive initiatives put forward by the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab League in line with the UN Charter that calls for resolving all conflicts through peaceful means.

j. The BPC urges the United States and Britain to establish relations on an equal footing with the Great Jamahiriyah within the framework of international law and to serve the joint interests of their respective peoples in light of mutual respect and noninterference in domestic affairs.

k. The BPC urges the UN Security Council to abrogate its Resolution 748, which the Basic People's Congresses believe to be outside and in violation of the spirit of the UN Charter, and having been based on Article Seven, it constitutes a serious violation of the charter, because the Great Jamahiriyah has not threatened world peace and security. The BPC warns against the gravity of the great dangers that resulted from imposing the coercive measures that greatly harmed the Libyan Arab people; affected their subsistence and health and educational affairs; obstructed their development projects; prevented them from practicing their religious rites such as the pilgrimage, Umrah [out of season pilgrimage], and participation with Islamic countries in their international conferences; and harmed the interests and nationals of other countries.

l. Issuing the unjust raid in 1986, as a result of which a large number of children, women, and innocent civilians fell victim, is to be submitted to the UN Security Council.

m. The BPC affirms its belief in working with all peoples to safeguard world peace and security in a way that will achieve stability in the world.

n. The BPC calls for further efforts to be made to establish comprehensive Arab unity, the most ideal solution to all the issues of the Arab nation.

9. The positions of Arab and foreign states regarding the imperialist threats against the Great Jamahiriyah:

The BPC reviewed the memorandum that explains the positions of states on the threats to which the Great Jamahiriyah is being subjected and decided the following:

a. To commend the positions of the states that rejected the unjust measures imposed by the Western alliance against the Great Jamahiriyah.

b. The BPC expresses its regret for the positions adopted by some Arab countries, which hastened to implement these unjust measures.

c. The BPC's call on the Arab countries to implement the treaties of Arab joint action and instigate the Arab Maghreb Union countries to adhere to the implementation of the articles of the treaty of establishing the Union and signed agreements; not to adhere to implementing the UN's compulsory measures; and to transform the solidarity statements into actual action.

d. The BPC calls for reassessing relations with other countries in light of their positions toward those measures.

e. The BPC salutes the Arab organizations; associations; unions; parliaments; parties; and tribes that in their statements expressed support to the Great Jamahiriyah and its leader.

f. The BPC emphasizes the need to continue the work for mobilizing and winning more countries'support and for solving the problem through peaceful dialogue and understanding.

10. Developing unity, integration, and cooperation with Arab brothers: The BPC reviewed the memorandum about developing unity, integration, and cooperation with Arab brothers. As they express their satisfaction with the exerted efforts, the BPC decided:

a. Arab unity is fate and destiny. Work should be carried out to implement it to secure the Arab nation's future and to face up to the great blocs and threats to which the Arab nation is exposed;

b. To work toward implementing ratified agreements with all Arab countries on time; to remove any obstacles obstructing this course: and to activate all structures and committees that stem from these agreements;

c. To call on all Arab countries, particularly those with which we are bound with treaties and agreements, to review their positions toward the unjust, compulsory measures against the Great Jamahiriyah.

11. The Palestinian Issue: The BPC reviewed the memorandum about the Palestinian cause and decided the following:

a. To continue to support and consolidate morally and materially the revolution of the stones [the intifadah];
b. To work toward uniting the Palestinian detachments to liberate Palestine and face up to Zionist schemes aimed at depriving the Palestinian Arab peoples of their legitimate rights to return to their land and to establish their independent Palestinian state;
c. To work toward implementing all international resolutions against the Zionist invaders;
d. To work toward ending the Jewish emigration and toward removing Zionist settlements from Arab territories.

12. Treaties and agreements between the Great Jamahiriyah and other countries: The BPCs reviewed agreements and treaties between the great Jamahiriyah and other countries during the past year, ratified them, and made the following remarks:

a. It is necessary to follow up the contracted agreements seriously, to prepare a report on the course of their implementation and the shortcomings in this respect, and to submit this report to the BPCs. It is also necessary to emphasize the principle of equality in monetary rights and commitments which stem from these treaties and agreements;

b. It is necessary to draft a practical program for implementing agreements with due consideration to quality, suitable prices, and health control in implementing trade agreements;

c. It is necessary to consider the positions of states on issues that concern the Great Jamahiriyah when concluding agreements with them.

This was the foreign policy chapter. Any opinions? [applause]

Thank you.

Within the framework of the foreign policy chapter, here are general decisions:

1. The GPC decides to set up a committee in charge of making contacts with the three concerned states and the related quarters to find solutions for all pending problems. The GPC Secretariat is commissioned to name its members.

2. The GPC decides to propose abolishing the Islamic Call Association and the Jihad Fund and to incorporate their financial assests and investments to be utilized in developing projects. It commissions the GPC to prepare a draft bill to be submitted to the BPCs at a coming session.

3. The GPC decides to commision the GPC to prepare a study of a development plan that aims to complete the unfinished projects, the delayed projects, and those projects inherited from previous development plans. The plan should be submitted to the BPCs at their next session.

4. At GPC Secretariat question time, I asked the Secretariat about the delay in preparing some laws. The proposal is to set up a committee to prepare the laws drafted by the BPC at their previous sessions. The Secretariat suggests that the committee include: the brother secretary for people's congress affairs at the GPC Secretariat; the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for People's Control and Follow-Up; the brother secretary of the General People's Commitee for Justice; the brother secretary of the People's Congress of al-Jabal al-Akhdar; and the brother secretary of the General Union of the Judiciary and Prosecution.

Is this proposal acceptable? [GPC delegates say "yes."]

There is another proposal, namely to set up a committee to study the GPC draft bylaw: The GPC decides to set up a committee to study the GPC draft bylaw and to submit the outcome of its work to the GPC at its next session. The Secretariat proposes the following names: the brother assistant secretary of the GPC; the brother secetary of the People's Committee for Higher Education; the brother secretary for integration with Sudan; the brother secretary of the People's Congress of al-Shararah; the brother secretary of the People's Congress of al-Jabal al-Gharbi municipality; and the brother secretary of the General Union of Jurists.

Is the proposal acceptable? [GPC delegates say "yes."]

Concerning the chapter of accountability: The GPC questioned its Secretariat and other organs affiliated to it on measures they took to follow up implementation of the decisions of the people's congresses. The GPC has heard the answers to the BPCs' questions and the interventions and observations of GPC brother members and notes:

1. Its dissatisfaction with the answers.
2. Negligence in preparing the laws issued by the BPCs.
3. The continuous delay in presenting the memoranda to the BPCs.
4. The unsuitable choice of dates for the BPCs' sessions.

The GPC questioned the General People's Committee and the Specialized General People's Committees about their executive measure regarding the BPCs' decisions. The GPC has heard the answers to its questions and the observations of the People's Committee for People's Control and Follow-Up and the interventions and observations of the GPC Secretariat and GPC brother members and notes:

1. Its dissatisfaction with the answers.
2. Negligence in incorporating the BPCs' decisions within an implementation plan compatible with the available capabilities.
3. The lack of control over the lower people's committees, which led to the continuation of the administrative indiscipline phenomenon.

Brothers, while we are about to end the GPC sessions in its second ordinary session for this year and after we finished drafting the GPC resolutions, we adopt them to deal with the issues submitted in the internal and external fields without any custodianship or representation and with all freedom. All the masses decide and put all this before the people's committees in charge of implementation. Where there is popular supervision, popular accountability, and popular punishment, the Libyans alone are the pioneers of the Jamahiriyah in this world, which is in a constant wavelike movement and will only rest when the Jamahiriyah system of government is introduced. The sole safe shore is for all who seek final and lasting security. Here we are, proceeding forward, showing the world its coming city and eternal dream of a land pervaded by peace.

Thus, all the masses, all over the world, are now heading for the Jamahiriyah, toward a move from the pyramid shape of government to the horizontal shape [direct democracy] in which all stand equal, without representation or deputization, without discrimination or classes and without up and down.

Awareness, understanding, logic; the indicators of reality and the reading of history all confirm the truth: that all are turning to us, to the Jamahiriyah.

Brothers, during the 12 days of the sessions of the Congress, we have been accompanied by those who are working for the media: television and radio relay, journalists, photographers and editors of news agencies, and also those working in wire, radio, and postal communications, electricity, and transportation. To them all, every appreciation for the efforts that they have exerted, which have facilitated the work of this Congress at home and abroad.

Thanks and appreciation to the secretariat of the Surt People's Congress and to its people's committee and its apparatuses; thanks to the secretariat of the people's committee for justice in the municipality and its branches; to the security apparatuses; to the employees of Surt hotels and those in charge of this hall and the halls in which subsessions were held; to those working in the hotels who looked after the comfort of our guests and members. Perhaps words do not do all justice, those we have mentioned and those we did not. I greet them in your name and shake their hands. [applause]

Now, we address the maker of the era of the masses, the secretary of pan-Arabism, leader of the Great November revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi:

The meeting of the Congresses, the People's Committees, trade unions, unions, and vocational leagues, the General People's Congress, convening at Wafa' Hall, in the struggling city of Surt from 13 al-Sayf 1992 to 23 al-Sayf [13 to 23 June] 1992 coincides with our people's celebrations of eternal days, which have their own significance in our contemporary history when our people have, under your leadership, achieved the evacuation of foreign forces, of which we celebrate the 22nd anniversary. Our people have, under your guidance, issued the great Human Rights Green Document in the era of the masses, of which we celebrate the fourth anniversary. We joined the Muslim masses in celebrating the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

The GPC is also convening in the shadow of the escalating hateful Crusader campaign, which has lain in wait to punish our people for their firm nationalist and humane positions, drawn up under your leadership to be human positions protecting sovereignty, to achieve freedom, and to embody your thought into eternal human theses that achieve the sovereignty of man and his possession of his authority, wealth, and weapons. Such weapons have given our people the position of leadership among peoples of the world.

The GPC, while meeting in light of these circumstances, announces, in accordance with what has been decided by the BPC, the adherence of the Libyan Arab people to their revolution, their leadership, and their political, social, and economic options. With your constant guidance, the people will offer their own selves the fuel of continuity [sentence as heard]. [applause]

The GPC, having concluded the formulation of the resolutions of the BPC, has the honor of conveying to you the best congratulations for the blessed feasts. It affirms to you its adherence to all the values that you have struggled for, and instigated our people to practice them, in entrenchment of the society of freedom that ensures the sovereignty of man and preserves his dignity to arrive at realizing the happiness of mankind by liberating man and his needs.

It affirms to you that no matter how fierce the campaign escalates, and no matter the forces that assail our nation, we will never stoop, or submit, or surrender. But we will remain steadfast, struggling for our cause, the cause of mankind, who is looking forward with the guidance of your [al-Qadhdhafi's] humane green spirit. Together, we will make the future, whose stars have begun to twinkle in today's sky, so that the masses may attain the end of their journey, and so that the sun, while shining for all, may be a beacon made by us in your era, O you leader, the era of the masses.

May you last as a guiding leader and as a teacher. Forward! The revolutionary struggle continues. The GPC, meeting at the al-Wafa hall in Surt [applause]

The session is suspended.

Demonstrators Blame Embargo for Explosion Deaths

LD2406134792 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli witnessed an angry demonstration before noon today in denunciation of the Atlanticist UN Resolution 748 that was imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah. That resolution prevented sending abroad to receive treatment those injured in the explosion at the depot for fireworks and explosives. The depot exploded in the As Sawani area near Tripoli on 20 June.

Hundreds of citizens and a team of Arab and foreign journalists joined the families of the victims of the incident in this demonstration that gathered in front of the UN office in Tripoli. They shouted against the air embargo, which is imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah, demanding the cancellation of the oppressive Resolution 748.

The demonstrating families of the victims carried symbolic coffins and photographs of the victims of the explosion and banners that stressed the inhumane nature of this resolution and its tragic consequences for the sons of the Libyan people and the Arabs and foreigners residing in the Great Jamahiriyah. The demonstrators stood for a one-minute silence in front of the UN office and read the opening chapter of the Koran [fatihatu al-kitab], praying to God to have mercy on the souls of these victims. They handed in a statement to the UN representative in the Great Jamahiriyah in which they expressed their deep dismay over the unjust resolution.

They put the responsibility for the rise in the number of deaths in the explosion incident on the embargo imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah.

The statement said that, in the circumstances surrounding this embargo, with the death of the sons of the Arab and Muslim Libyan people before they were able to receive the treatment and medicine that are lacking due to the embargo imposed by the UN Security Council resolution, and with the participation of the Arabs and Muslims in its implementation ...[sentence incomplete as heard]

Palestinian Groups Asked To Leave; Camps Closed

NC2406155192 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 22 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] In an effort to end the Palestinian presence in Libya, Libyan intelligence called representatives of all Palestinian groups and asked them to leave the country with their families and guards as soon as possible. Libyan intelligence closed all Palestinian training camps and centers and confiscated their contents. One camp, located in the al-Surrah area near the Sudanese border where Yasir 'Arafat's plane crash landed in April, was allowed to remain open.

It is worth noting that these camps and centers were run by Palestinian groups opposed to the PLO, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, led by Ahmad Jibril; Fatah-the Revolutionary Council; Fatah-the Uprising, led by Muhammad Musa Muraghah, alias, Abu-Musa; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine; and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. All of these groups oppose PLO participation in the current peace process.

Morocco

Energy, Trade Ministers Meet Iraqi Official

JN2306115092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Rabat, 23 Jun (INA)—'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di, minister of industry and minerals, met with Driss Alaoui M'daghri, Moroccan energy mines minister, in Rabat today.

During the meeting, the minister reviewed the effects of the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against Iraq, and the Iraqis' efforts to reconstruct what was destroyed by the aggressive coalition forces.

The two sides discussed cooperation between Iraq and Morocco and means of promoting Arab cooperation in industrial fields, in addition to issues to be discussed during the ministerial meeting of of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining, due to begin here tomorrow.

'Amir Hammudi al-Sa'di also met with Moroccan Foreign Trade Minister Hassan Abou Ayoub here today. They discussed prospects of bilateral cooperation in industrial and trade fields.

The Iraqi minister is on a visit to Morocco to participate in the meetings of the ministerial council of the Arab Organization for Industrial Development and Mining.

Diplomatic Agreements Signed With Ukraine, Estonia

LD2406085792 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Morocco and Ukraine are to establish diplomatic relations at ambassador level. This came in a joint statement signed yesterday in New York by Ahmed Senoussi, ambassador plenipotentiary and permanent representative of the Kingdom of Morocco at the United Nations, and Viktor Batyuk, ambassador plenipotentiary and permanent representative of Ukraine at the United Nations.

A similar communique was also issued on establishing diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Estonia which was signed by Mr. Senoussi for Morocco side and by his Estonian counterpart Ernst Jaakson. The communique stipulates the development of friendship and bilateral cooperation within the principles set by the United Nations Charter.

Western Sahara

Reportage on Conflict With Morocco, UN Mediation

UN Envoy Talks With Morocco, Polisario

LD2006184892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] The UN envoy in charge of the Western Sahara issue, Mr. Sahabzada Yakub Khan, completed a new round of talks with the Moroccan authorities and with Polisario leaders with the aim of arriving at a date for conducting the referendum on the Saharans' self-determination.

To know the reasons for delaying this referendum, we today contacted Mr. Ibrahim Hakim, Saharan ambassador to Algeria, who said:

[Begin Hakim recording] In fact, it is known who hindered the progress of this plan. It is the other side, and the ball is now in the other's court. However, there is a document left by Spain before leaving the Sahara, and this document contains a list of the names of the population concerned with the referendum in Western Sahara. The two sides, Morocco and the Polisario Front, gave their consent in 1988 to the UN secretary general to make this document a basis for the selection of voters. After that, the Moroccan side came up with a new position, through which it calls for the extension of this list on a tribal basis. In fact, this is a complete deviation from Morocco's agreement to keep the selection of voters based on the list which Spain left. [end recording]

We also asked the Saharan ambassador about the results of the tour of the UN envoy in charge of Western Sahara, he answered by saying:

[Begin Hakim recording] We are now waiting for what the special representative deduces after this visit. Anyway, we consider this visit, and this move, encouraging for the implementation of the plan. [end recording]

Ministry Condemns Moroccan Plan

LD2206093192 Algiers APS in Arabic 0849 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Algeria, 21 Jun (APS)—A Saharan Information Ministry statement delivered yesterday to APS announced that the Saharan authorities condemn the Moroccan interior minister's dangerous statement that Morocco intends to annex Western Sahara in the forthcoming Moroccan elections.

The statement pointed out that the Saharan Government has urgently called on the UN secretary-general and the chairman of the Security Council to intervene with Morocco for the sake of preserving the gains of the cease-fire and thus the implementation of the UN peace plan.

The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] mentions in this respect that Western Sahara has been the responsibility of the UN under the Security Council's supreme authority since 6 September 1991, the date of the deployment of the UN mission throughout Saharan territory in order to organize the referendum in Western Sahara.

The statement added that the presence of the international mission in Western Sahara means, according to the Saharan authorities, consecration of the law specific to Saharan territory which differentiates it from Morocco, and the determination of the United Nations to eliminate imperialism in Western Sahara.

Polisario Threatens Resumption of War

LD2106163292 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Polisario has reacted very strongly to Morocco's announcement that the coming legislative elections will take place on all Moroccan territory, including Western Sahara. The warning is unequivocal. If this vote takes place before the referendum on self-determination that the UN is trying to organize in the Sahara, the Saharans will resume the war. This, in any case, is what Polisario deputy leader Bashir Mustapha Sayed said to Kamel Djaider:

[Begin recording] [Sayed] I would see this threat as the greatest provocation possible after the blocking of the process of applying [the UN referendum] and preventing Butrus Ghali's latest measures from seeing the light of day. If this threat were to be put into practice, the Saharan people and the Polisario Front would resist this, and this provocation would not go without a reaction.

[Djaider] Do you mean that you would resume military activity?

[Sayed] The first soldier that would take place [as heard] in Western Sahara, not in the framework of this referendum to determine the future of Western Sahara, but to take part in an electoral masquerade within our [word indistinct], that would be the first day of the resumption of hostilities. We have done everything to halt hostilities, with several unilateral truces, and as soon as the first opportunity arose to establish a cease-fire we made the greatest concessions so that it could take place. Today, I can see these hostilities resuming in two instances. The first is if the United Nations admits failure. The second is if Morocco succeeds in making the UN presence a parody and a mockery. [end recording]

Bahrain

Qatari Statement on Border Dispute Welcomed

JN2206170392 Manama WAKH in English 1510 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Manama, June 22 (GNA)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Ministry of Foreign Affairs, commenting on a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar on 6th of June 1992, stated today that the State of Bahrain reciprocates the sincere fraternal feeling of its brothers in the State of Qatar and believes that this positive spirit will prevail for everybody's well-being. The State of Bahrain takes this opportunity to renew its goodwill and appreciation to the State of Qatar and hopes that the two states can achieve their shared objectives through the close brotherly relationship existing between them.

The State of Bahrain has consistently declared its belief that, in the absence of a negotiated solution, all matters of difference existing between the two states should be referred to the International Court of Justice by means of a special agreement to reach a final solution which will be binding on the two parties. With a view to achieving this, and to avoid any further delay in solving differences existing between the two states, the State of Bahrain hopes that the State of Qatar will accept and sign the special agreement which the State of Bahrain has recently presented to it so that they may go to the International Court of Justice together by means of a joint application.

The State of Bahrain hopes that this offer, which has been made in a spirit of mutual understanding, will enable the two states to make real progress towards resolving their differences thereby strengthening the close historic links between them and pave the way for closer cooperation between the states and their peoples.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Comments on Border, Security Issues

LD2306102292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0807 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 23 Jun (KUNA)—His highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, in an interview published here in today's AL-QABAS, reiterated Kuwait's thanks to the sisterly and friendly countries that contributed to its liberation, and qualified the Security Council's approval of the results of the demarcation of borders with Iraq and its rejection of the Iraqi letter as a continuation of the principled international stance regarding the just Kuwaiti cause and against aggression and injustice. [passage omitted]

Touching on the recent Iraqi infiltration in al-Salimi region, he said that the incident was blown up out of all proportion, and that the protection of the Kuwaiti borders from any infiltration has become the responsibility of the armed forces. All the modern scientific means of control will be used to halt cases of infiltration, and also the necessary human elements will be provided.

Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim revealed in his interview the amendments of the laws on penalties and residence in Kuwait, which stipulate severe punishment to provide increased security and stability along with the conditions and developments which resulted from the Iraqi invasion.

In reply to a question about the possibility of resuming relations with the countries which supported Iraq in its aggression against Kuwait, he said "The wound is still too big in our hearts, and it is difficult for us to forgive past actions."

In reply to a question regarding the demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister said "This issue does not concern Kuwait alone, but concerns the international community, through the Security Council, which, since the very beginning of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, stood for the support of the just cause of Kuwait and against the Iraqi invasion. This became clear with the military action of the allied countries for the liberation of Kuwait." He added "The committee in charge of border demarcation has concluded its studies of this question." He stressed that the results reached by this committee "Returned our lands and rights to us, and this is all we want and nothing else." [passage omitted]

Oil Minister Terms Talks in U.S. 'Fruitful'

LD2006191292 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Oil Minister Hamud 'Abdullah al-Ruqbah described his talks with high-ranking officials in the U.S. Department of Energy as fruitful, and said that there was correspondence in the viewpoints of the two sides on the future of oil prices and international demand for it.

In a statement to KUNA after his return to the country from Washington, the oil minister expressed Kuwait's gratitude to the United States for its role in liberating and rebuilding Kuwait.

Dr. Hamud 'Abdullah al-Ruqbah said that he felt, during his meetings with U.S. officials, that they see that the imposition of the carbon tax is futile.

He said that his visit, which came at an official invitation from the U.S. Government, was for consultation and the exchange of viewpoints on the future of oil with respect to production, prices, and demand.

The oil minister pointed out that the meetings between the two sides were fruitful, and he said he discussed with the U.S. side the U.S. strategy on oil and its prices in the foreseeable future, and the extent of its reliance on OPEC oil, in particular, Persian Gulf oil. [passage omitted]

The oil minister added that he discussed with the U.S. side the issue of forming a joint oil committee to follow up on the recommendations of these meetings, and to exchange information in the future. He expects the visit of the U.S. energy secretary to Kuwait in the near future to follow up on what has been agreed upon.

Minister Reviews Talks With Iranian Leaders

PM2206152092 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 19 Jun 92 p 3

[Interview with Communications and Transportation Minister Habib Jawhar Hayat by unidentified correspondent in Tehran "yesterday"]

[Excerpts] [SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] We will begin, Your Excellency, Minister, by asking about your meeting with President Rafsanjani: What were the most important issues discussed with Rafsanjani?

[Hayat] President Rafsanjani's gave us a very good reception, and I conveyed to him the greetings of their highnesses the amir and heir apparent. He inquired about their health and I thanked him for the warm welcome accorded to us and the accompanying delegation, which proves the Iranian brothers' generosity. They were very generous to us. President Rafsanjani expressed his desire to further expand ties of friendship and cooperation in all spheres. President Rafsanjani said that Iran opens its doors to all Gulf brothers. He warmly welcomed increasing the exchange of visits and contacts. He asked me about the demarcation of Iraqi-Kuwaiti borders and the remarks made by the Iraqi regime's foreign minister in that connection. So I explained to him the negotiations and their historical background since the 1918, 1932, and 1964 agreements, and also Iraq's popular agreement represented by the National Assembly and official agreements represented by the Saddam himself, his government, and the so-called the Revolution Command Council, which agreed to international resolution 687, which stipulates the formation of an international committee to end the border issue and to demarcate the borders. I added that what we hear from the Iraqi regime is merely idle, worthless talk.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What was President Rafsanjani's reaction?

[Hayat] President Rafsanjani inquired, and I explained, so he appeared convinced and acquainted himself with the whole issue. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] How would you assess your meeting with Rafsanjani in general?

[Hayat] The meeting was very good. What is more, it will open up to us new horizons for cooperation in all spheres. His excellency expressed Iran's willingness to cooperate in rebuilding what was destroyed by the Iraqi regime's aggression. The Islamic Republic of Iran's participation in extinguishing the burning oilfields was also mentioned. It is very praiseworthy, compared with what the other companies did. As I told His Excellency President Rafsanjani, we will not forget Iran's positive stance on the Iraqi regime's aggression against us and Iran's hosting of our refugees.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] You met with Foreign Minister Velayati. Did you discuss the subject of the Kuwaiti planes and their return?

[Hayat] We did not discuss the subject of the Kuwaiti planes with any Iranian officials, because that matter is taking its natural course through the negotiations which have started. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Let us return to your meeting with Velayati.

[Hayat] We discussed the question of Kuwaiti prisoners with Minister Velayati. Minister Velayati told us that the Islamic Republic of Iran stands by Kuwait in all spheres until the return of its prisoners and that it would grant it support for the release of Kuwaiti prisoners. He also expressed his hope that their release will be secured by all possible means.

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Your meeting with Minister Velayati seems to have been dominated by the political aspect?

[Hayat] Apart from that, we broached nothing else in the talks, except ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation in the communications and transportation field. [passage omitted]

Delegation Departs for Oil Talks in Iran

LD2006130192 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1142 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Excerpt] 20 Jun (KUNA)—A delegation of the Kuwait National Petroleum Company, headed by the executive assistant of the delegate member of the board for sales Husayn Majid al-Shamma', left today for Tehran to conduct oil negotiations with Iranian petroleum institutions.

Husayn al-Shamma' told KUNA that the visit, scheduled through 23 June, was in response to an invitation from the Iran National Oil Company to continue negotiations related to supplying Iran with medium refined petroleum derivatives. In addition, the talks will explore commercial petroleum exchanges between the two institutions. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Sultan Qabus Arrives in Jeddah, Met by King

LD2006180992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1705 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 20 Jun, (SPA)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id Al-Sa'id, Sultan of Oman, arrived in Jeddah this evening on visit to the Kingdom.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, was at His Majesty's reception at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport. [passage omitted]

Qabus Holds Talks With King Fahd

LD2106172292 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah, 21 Jun (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, and his brother Sultan Qabus Bin Said, the sultan of Oman, held a meeting at the guest palace at al-Hamra today.

On the Saudi side, the meeting was attended by his Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd-al-'Aziz, minister of defense, aviation, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; his excellency Ibrahim al-'Anqari, the private adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Excellency Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, the minister of finance and national economy; His Excellency Minister of Education 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir; His Excellency Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir; and 'Abd al- Muhsin al-Balla', the ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to Oman.

On the Omani side, the meeting was attended by His Excellency Qays bin 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Zawawi, the deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs; Sayf Bin Hamad Bin Sa'ud, his excellency the minister of the Sultan's Office; Minister of Information 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin Muhammad al-Rawwas; and His Excellency Yusuf Bin 'Alawi Bin 'Abdullah, the minister of state for foreign affairs.

King Fahd Receives Afghanistan's Rabbani

LD2306171192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1636 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah, 23 Jun—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today at his office in the Royal Court at Salam Palace received Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, chairman of the Leadership Council of the mojahedin and chairman of the Afghan Islamic Society. The meeting was attended by Prince Turki al-Faysal.

United Arab Emirates

Mubarak Sends Message on Ties, Current Situation

JN2306113292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jun (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, has received a message from Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on bilateral relations and the current Arab situation. The message comes within the framework of the continuous consultation between the two presidents in the interest of the Arab nation and its causes.

'Atif 'Ubayd, Egyptian minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for development and environmental affairs, handed the message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid during a meeting in Abu Dhabi today.

UAE Establishes Diplomatic Ties With Croatia

JN2306131292 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1205 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Jun (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Croatia have decided to establish diplomatic ties at the ambassadorial level effective 23 June 1992.

A joint statement issued in Abu Dhabi and Zagreb today said that the decision to establish diplomatic relations stems from the joint desire to entrench friendship relations and develop bilateral cooperation.

The UAE recognized the independence of Croatia from Federal Yugoslavia on 18 April.

With the establishment of diplomatic ties with Croatia, the UAE now shares diplomatic relations with 108 countries.

Minister Requests UNSC Session on Crop Burning

JN2306204492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2008 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] United Nations, 23 Jun (INA)—Iraq today officially requested an urgent official UN Security Council [UNSC] meeting to discuss the U.S. crime of burning Iraqi crops, which is a violation of the principles and provisions of the UN Charter.

This came in a letter by Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn to the president of the Security Council for this month, Belgian Ambassador Paul Noterdaeme. The Iraqi mission's charge d'affaires, Samir al-Ni'mah, handed the letter to the UNSC president at noon today.

The president of the UNSC told the Iraqi mission's charge d'affaires that he would hold bilateral consultations on the Iraqi letter and would sound out the Security Council members on this issue.

In its letter, Iraq asked the Security Council to condemn the acts that the United States and Britain committed in northern Iraq, and demand that they halt such acts and compensate Iraq for the economic losses it sustained as a result of this criminal act.

The following is the text of the letter:

His Excellency Paul Noterdaeme, President of the UN Security Council,

I have the honor to inform you that U.S. and British planes have carried out flights at very low altitudes over fields planted with wheat and barley in Ninawa Governorate and have hurled U.S.-made flares of the 1RR type over these fields. On certain occasions, the planes intentionally opened their afterburners on these fields and on the heaps of grain there, causing fires that led to the destruction of thousands of tonnes of grain. The U.S. planes were F-16's and the British planes were Jaguars.

The fires were set as follows:

The al-Hamdaniyah area:
At 1620 on 27 May 1992, the al-Sina'ah road area.
At 1650 on 30 May 1992, the Qarah Qush area.
At 1200 on 30 May 1992, the Kharabat Sultan village.
At [time indistinct] on 5 June 1992, Judaydah village.
At [time indistinct] on 5 June 1992, Qarah Kushal [name as received].
At 1105 on 6 June 1992, Tawahinah [name as received] village.
At 1220 on 6 June 1992, 'Ali Rash village.

Mosul district:
In the afternoon of 6 June 1992, al-Shuhada' [name as received] village.
In the afternoon of 6 June 1992, al-Mawali village.
In the afternoon of 6 June 1992, Tall Khazaf [name as received] village.

The al-Hamdaniyah area:
At 1630 on 7 June 1992, the al-Nusrud [name as received] subdistrict.
At 0930 on 9 June 1992, the old Mosul road.
At 1205 on 9 June 1992, the old Mosul road.
At 1620 on 9 June 1992, the old Mosul road.
At 1200 on 10 June 1992, Qarah Qush.
At 1900 on 10 June 1992, Harjalah [name as received] village.
At 1500 on 11 June 1992, al-Salamiyah [name as received] road.

The Hammam al-'Alil subdistrict.
On 11 June 1992, Bakhaira village.
At 1100 on 12 June 1992, Abu-'Ara'is village.
At 1100 on 12 June 1992, Abu-Jaradi village.
On 12 June 1992, al-'Amrini [name as received] village.

Al-Hamdaniyah area:
At 1645 on 12 June 1992, Qarah Qush.
At 1205 on 13 June 1992, Kabarli village.
At 1620 on 13 June 1992, Wardak village.

These incidents took place throughout the grain reaping season in the above areas, which the allied forces know because of more than a year of continuous flights over northern Iraq. They knew the times of the Iraqi agricultural season. These incidents led to huge fires that caused great destruction of wheat and barley crops in an area that exceeded 11,000 dunums of land.

The fires also destroyed some agricultural machines used during the reaping season. These machines cannot be acquired now because of the economic embargo on Iraq. This means preventing Iraq from using these machines during the next agricultural season. This is in addition to the human losses among the peasants who were busy putting out the fires caused by the planes, thus inflicting irreparable losses on their families in addition to their loss of a whole season's crop.

On 20 June 1992, the U.S. Defense Department announced that a plane dropped some flares on Iraqi territory as a result of poor performance. Another reason given was that a pilot believed that Iraqi radar was tracking him. This admission came after denials by officials at the U.S. State Department and at the British Foreign Office. The radar justification put forward by the U.S. Defense Department is entirely false. It is clear that the U.S. and British flights were not one or two isolated incidents but were a continuous process during which planes were flying at very low altitudes with the aim of burning the wheat and barley with flares and afterburners which, when they sent out flames at this very low altitude, caused fires to the heaps of grain and burned the wheat and barley ears that were ready for reaping.

It has been observed that the U.S. and British planes did not drop flares during their flights before the current reaping season. All these facts prove the intentional nature of these acts, and that they had definite instructions that they should set fire to the wheat and barley fields that were ready for reaping.

It is important to recall the justification that the United States put forward in order to launch its open military intervention in northern Iraq with its own armed forces and the forces of its allies. This intervention came under the pretext of providing the necessary protection for Iraqi Kurds, to extend succor to them after their return from neighboring states, to ensure their return to their original homes, and to extend continuous protection to them.

It is to be noted that the acts committed by the U.S. and British planes were carried out in areas in which there was no presence of Iraqi Armed Forces. These acts were aimed against the private property of people who do not live in Kurdish areas for the protection of which the United States and its allies claimed responsibility. Therefore, it is clear that the U.S. and British policies are aimed at strengthening the economic embargo on Iraq, not only by measures that are taken outside the borders of Iraq, but also by destroying what food the Iraqis can produce inside their Iraqi territory to face the embargo imposed on them. This proves what we have always said, namely that the continuation of the embargo has no real connection with the progress in Iraq's implementation of the UNSC resolution, but is a U.S. and British political process seeking the unilateral and exclusive aims of these two states.

It has been learned that the United States and its allies have continued, for over one year, to perpetrate acts of armed interference in northern Iraq. These acts have no legal basis in the UN Charter or international law. They are nothing but acts committed by brute force with a view to achieving unilateral political interests at the expense of a UN member-state's legitimate rights to sovereignty, independence, and regional safety. Certainly, these are absolutely banned on the intenational level. Therefore, full international responsibility, as defined in international law, should be assumed.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq holds the Government of the United States and the Government of the United Kingdom fully responsible, internationally, for committing these internationally banned acts. On this basis, the Government of the Republic of Iraq demands that the two governments stop perpetrating their internationally banned acts, and pay compensation for the material damage inflicted on humans, equipment, and property, including compensation for the lack of profit as a result of the damage.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq requests that Your Excellency call for the convening of an urgent Security Council meeting to discuss this issue, which constitutes a violation of the principles and provisions of the UN Charter. It further requests that the council condemn the acts perpetrated by U.S. and British aircraft in northern Iraq, and ask the U.S. and British Governments to discontinue these acts and to compensate Iraq as mentioned above. The Security Council also should discuss the discontinuation of flights in the airspace of northern Iraq by U.S., British, and French aircraft.

With my full respect.

[Signed] Ahmad Husayn, foreign minister of Iraq

'Premature' To Say Oil Accord With UN Reached

JN2306121392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1151 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jun (INA)—Commenting on the talks being held in Vienna between an Iraqi delegation and a UN delegation, the INA political editor today stated that it is premature to say that an agreement has been reached between the two sides on Iraqi oil sales.

He added that the details of the Vienna talks have not yet been disclosed, and that these details should be reviewed in Baghdad by Iraq and in New York by the Security Council, and after that one can tell whether or not an agreement has been reached.

Oil Talks With Azerbaijan Delegation Begin

JN2306112992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1019 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jun (INA)—Official oil talks began here today between Iraq and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Taha Humud Musa, senior under secretary at the Oil Ministry and head of the Iraqi delegation, made a speech during the talks, in which he asserted Iraq's concern to develop relations of cooperation in oil affairs with the Republic of Azerbaijan in the interest of the two countries.

The head of the Iraqi delegation also reviewed the destructive effects of the treacherous 30-state aggression against Iraq that targeted economic infrastructures, particularly oil installations. He asserted, moreover, that the construction campaign being undertaken by the unyielding Iraqis, under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, has been the decisive response to this aggression.

Professor Sa'id Rida Mir Karim Ogli, director of the Izi Oil Institute [name and title as received] and head of Azerbaijan's delegation, stressed the Azerbaijani people's solidarity with the people of Iraq and its leader, President Saddam Husayn, in its confrontation of the fierce onslaught that was launched against Iraq during the aggression that targeted the strength and capability of this great nation. He also pointed out his country's concern to develop relations between the two friendly countries.

The talks, which were attended by several specialists on both sides, dealt with the means to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of oil industry.

Finance Minister Returns From OPEC Meeting

JN2206135692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1155 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 22 Jun (INA)—Finance Minister 'Abd Majid Ja'far has returned to Baghdad after leading the Iraqi delegation to the 13th session of the ministerial council of OPEC's fund for international development held recently in the Austrian capital. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Prime Minister Calls for Helping Iraq

JN2206201092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1932 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] London, 22 Jun (INA)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah has stressed the need for helping the Iraqi people and of alleviating their suffering.

This report came within a dispatch to THE FINANCIAL TIMES from its correspondents in Bahrain, Roger Mathius and Mark Nicholson [names as received]. They quoted Shaykh Khalifah as saying: I would like to see normalization of relations on a large scale among the Arabian Gulf states. It is high time to turn over a new page in relations among the Arabian Gulf countries.

He added: This is the only way to maintain relations and security in the world.

70 Deportees From Kuwait Arrive in al-Basrah

JN2006163592 Baghdad INA in English 1620 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, June 20, INA—A new batch grouping 70 Iraqi and Arab citizens deported by the Kuwaiti regime arrived today in the southern city of al-Basrah.

The deportees told the INA that they were detained for more than a year without trial and exposed to various types of torture and maltreatement in the Kuwaiti prisons.

On the other hand, an official source at the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC, said that new batch of deportees is expected to arrive in al-Basrah this week.

U.S., Saudi Arabia Trying To 'Strangle' Baghdad

JN2106080092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—Arab diplomatic sources in the Yemeni capital have revealed that the Saudi regime is practicing all forms of terrorism, threats, and plots against sisterly Yemen, targeting its unity, political independence, and economy. In statements to the Iraqi newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, the sources noted that the Saudi authorities played—through the American ambassador in Sanaa—an exposed role in an attempt to influence the Yemeni Government's pan-Arab stands on the one hand and to spread terrorism in the unity state on the other.

The Arab diplomatic sources affirmed that the Fahd regime is currently financing terrorist elements to create seditions and riots in and put pressure on Yemen through mean methods such as attempting to buy certain political forces inside the country and to bribe the tribes residing along the Saudi-Yemeni border. [passage omitted]

The sources divulged information about a plan prepared by [Saudi Defense Minister] Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz to oust traitor Fahd through secret support from the Americans. The sources noted that the Arabs should not be under the illusion that Sultan is better than traitor Fahd.

The sources affirmed that Saudi money is used extensively to strike at Arab liberation movements. The American ambassador to Yemen is trying to bribe some Yemeni papers with Saudi money, but the honest writers have refused to succumb to pressure.

The Arab diplomatic sources said that Washington—through the help of its servant Fahd—is trying to strangle Iraq from all sides and is concentrating on the progressive states, which helped Iraq and which are standing at its side, such as Yemen, Sudan, and Jordan.

Iraq Remains 'Hope', 'Protection' for Gulf

JN2306093192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Jun (INA)—The AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper has said that Iraq will always stand tall, as it is the only foundation on which depends the Arabism of the Gulf and the protection of the Gulf people and their wealth from the greed of others.

In an article today, the paper asserts that despite the destruction inflicted on Iraq, the tight siege on its people, and the grudges held by some rulers against it, Iraq remains the sincere Arab hope aspired for by the Arabian Gulf peoples.

The paper explains that Iraq's true picture that prevailed before the aggression has started to take its real dimensions and produce its effects on the Arabian Gulf region after the propagandistic clamor raised by the United States, Britain, France, and their allies—which aimed at besmirching Iraq and undermining its status and its sincere stands toward the Arabian Gulf region—has started to disappear.

The paper emphasizes that Iraq, and the Iraq of Saddam Husayn in particular, will be the major foundation for any structure established to protect the Arabism of the Gulf, and not foreign protection, whose presence is linked to the interests of its states and their schemes.

The paper adds: There are several signs that indicate challenge to Saudi hegemony over the Gulf states, which has constantly urged the continuation of the blockade on the people of Iraq, supported by the imposed rulers of "Kuwait". There are also signs that feelings in the Gulf are no longer whisperings as they were a year ago, but that they are being expressed openly and publicly.

The paper concludes by predicting events that would herald a major development to be experienced by the Arabian Gulf, whose people have started to reject the tendentious reports propagated by foreign sources to the effect that Iraq is their real enemy, and not America, Britain, and Iran.

Price of Livestock Barley To Rise Sharply

JN2106172492 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 92 p 8

[By Rawiyah Hashim]

[Text] Baghdad—The Cabinet has decided to allow the Trade Ministry to sell barley to all concerned at 2,100 dinars per tonne instead of 550. Mills which use barley to produce flour will be an exception. The Cabinet further asked the Trade Ministry to give priority in the sale of barley to livestock farmers.

German Scientist Says Blockade Affects Health

JN2106141492 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 21 June 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, June 21, INA—A German scientist said the complications of bilharzia and the development of cancer in Iraq can be attributed to vitamin A deficiency due to the shortage of basic food that resulted from the embargo imposed on the country.

A report published here by the Iraqi English language daily "THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" said as for patients suffering from bilharzia infection, after systematic administration of vitamin A, the urinary ova excretion largely increased. The most dangerous symptoms of bilharzia infection are related to the deposition of ova in the issues, Professor Sigwart Gunther told attendants of a lecture delivered recently at Saddam Medical City in Baghdad.

The researcher attributed epidermal cell division to indigenous factors, to exogenous influences and, at least, in certain forms of dyskeratosis, to the serum level of vitamin A.

"Any disturbance in the balance of these components results in abnormalities in keratinization," he said.

Vitamin A acid, he added, has been shown to have a prophylactic as well as therapeutic effect on chemically induced benign and malignant epithelial tumours in mice.

Apart from hypovitaminosis A in nutritional deficiency, there exists possible variations caused by processes within the organism. These variations may appear in several conditions of the skin and mucous membranes.

Variation of non-nutritional vitamin A deficiency could be related to such factors as pregnancy, disturbed physiological absorption, disturbed storage ability (disease of the liver), disturbed stimulation to mobilise vitamin A depots of the body and defective interaction with some other factors, he explained.

At the conclusion of his lecture, Professor Gunther decorated Dr Rafah Salam 'Aziz, director of the Child Health Department of Baghdad University, with the silver medal (pro merito) presented by the president of the Albert Schweitzer Society in Austria, Dr Braundle Falkensee. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Opposition Activities, Battles

Anti-Regime Operations in South

NC2306152492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Groups of popular forces early last week attacked a Saddamist battalion command post in the al-Hammam area of al-Nasiriyah Governorate. The several-hour attack involved medium- and small-caliber weapons. Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] sources said the popular forces forced the Saddamist battalion to withdraw to nearby houses. SAIRI sources added that the popular forces gained complete control of the battalion's command after killing three troops, injuring nine others, and seizing large quantities of weapons and equipment. The same sources said the attack coincided with reports that the regime's forces were ready to launch an offensive against the area.

Meanwhile, a group of popular forces attacked and destroyed a tyrant forces command post in al-'Amarah Governorate at the beginning of this week. A column of the regime's tanks besieged (al-Muhaybis) village, arrested a number of inhabitants, and carted them off to an unknown destination.

SAIRI Leader Invited To Egypt

NC2306155592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has received an invitation to visit Egypt. The SAIRI representative in Vienna has said that the Egyptian ambassador to Austria has conveyed the invitation to al-Hakim. The newspaper AL-'AMAL [not further identified], which carried the report today, did not specify the date or the purpose of the visit.

SAIRI Claims Successes in Marshland

LD2406090292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1855 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus, 22 Jun (KUNA)—An Iraqi opposition movement said that opposition forces have carried out a number of armed operations against Iraqi Government forces in response to the practices of the Iraqi regime against the Iraqi people. A statement by the Information Center of the "Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" [SAIRI] released here today said that one of the opposition armed groups recently ambushed a military personnel carrier belonging to the regime's forces on one of the roads leading to the al-'Amarah marshes. The attack destroyed the carrier and killed everyone in it.

A second group carried out an attck on a control point of the regime's forces stationed on the road connecting al-Madinah with al-Chubaysh [on both sides of Hawr al-Hammar near al-Nasiriyah]. The attack resulted in killing three officers including one with the rank of first lieutenant. The statement said the authorities of the Iraqi regime had earlier this month transferred to the city of Mosul the bodies of tens of its soldiers who were killed in the recent battles in the marshes in the south of Iraq including an officer with the rank of staff colonel.

The statement added that in an attempt to conceal its defeats and the number of those killed which is in the hundreds, the regime is keeping the corpses in special refrigerators so as to deliver them later in batches and at widely-spaced intervals.

Mujahidin Kill Patrol Personnel

NC2306151292 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1322 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] A mujahidin group of our popular forces on 17 June ambushed a Saddamite security patrol on the (?Qasim-al-Mudaynah) road in al-Basrah Governorate. The mujahidin fired at the patrol, killing all its members and a hireling woman who was in their company and destroyed the vehicle in which they were riding. The patrol was on its way to attack a mujahidin group in the area.

In another ambush, a warrant officer who played a dirty role in fighting and persecuting the masses—particularly those Armed Forces personnel who rejected the tyrant domination—was killed on al-Maymunah-al-Rifa'i road on 20 June.

Labor Celebrates Victory, Discusses Coalition

Labor Secretary Delivers Victory Speech

TA2306195892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1920 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Speech by Labor Party Secretary Mikha Harish at Labor Party Headquarters in Tel Aviv on learning the television straw poll results—live]

[Text] Since 1981 and until the current elections, the two large parties were on the decline and the democratic Israeli system disintegrated into numerous small parties. Today we are witnessing a double revolution in Israel. First, the public in Israel, a multitude of citizens, placed their faith in Yitzhaq Rabin and Labor to bring new hope to this land. Once again there is a party in the Knesset that can lead. There is a leadership in the Knesset today to lead this country out of all the failures and blunders of Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud. A new road will start as of tomorrow. We will promote the peace process together with a fight for security; we will cope with unemployment problems; we will reassure all that we have a democracy, that we will continue to promote electoral and government reform. I would like to seize this opportunity to thank you all for the great job you have done. Through you, I would like to relay our gratitude to the hundreds of activists and members throughout the country: Young and old; new and veteran; in the moshavim and in towns; among Jews, Arabs, and Druze. This is a victory for all of us. On your behalf, I would like to promise Yitzhaq Rabin, when he sets up his government, that this party, which has made enormous efforts to revive itself over the last two years, will continue to see itself committed to all these citizens from whom we drew our strength and to whom we owe our gratitude. Long live the State of Israel!

Rabin On 'National Mainstream' Coalition

TA2306230492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2150 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Address by Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin to Labor supporters at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] I would like to ask for your attention, please. Assuming that the results of the television straw poll are the real results, or at least approximate them, I would first of all wish to express my profound respect for the Israeli people for conducting a serious and mature election campaign without manifestations of violence or hatred. An objective debate was held on the opinions of the various parties and their leaders regarding the issues that must be resolved in the next four years. I would like to express my deep gratitude to the large public that voted for me and Labor to lead the country. I would like to say that I see myself and Labor as being responsible to the whole Israeli public for upholding our policies as they were presented to the nation. The people knew what we were committed to and what we intended to carry out. If the final results tally with the television's straw poll, and we form the government, we will implement them. I said before the elections—and I reiterated this at a rally yesterday—that I will assume personal responsibility for either the success or failure, and I am happy that things turned out well.

There can be no responsibility without first giving authority to whoever assumes such responsibility. Therefore, I will handle the coalition negotiations as soon as the final election results are known. I will decide who will be ministers. There will be no horse trading. The ministers will be appointed according to their capabilities and not according to their factional orientations. We will aspire to a coalition that will express the national mainstream and will enable us to carry out our policies. We will seek to include all positive forces in the nation that identify with our path: Furthering the peace process while maintaining security. Nobody can teach us what a responsible attitude to security means.

We will change the national order of priorities in order, first of all, to guarantee jobs for the unemployed and to bring hope to the country's young generation. We will reverse the slump in aliyah. We will give education to our children and apartments to our young couples. To that end, we will have to change the distribution of state funds and create conditions for the recruitment of large resources from abroad which will enable us to reach peace with security as well as to redefine our internal priorities. We need to restore our citizens' dignity and give them economic security and jobs. We need to give them social security, education, housing, health, and a pension. These objectives are possible, and we will achieve them.

I would like to thank our many colleagues and activists who proudly stood behind their candidate and party. They went everywhere. Labor did not hide anymore. I would like to thank a group of colleagues from Mikha Harish's campaign committee: Fu'ad [nickname of Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer], Hayim Ramon, Moshe Shahal, Masha [Lubelsky], Bayga [Avraham Shohat], and to all the others who held key positions and to those who aided the officials. Of course, I would like to thank old colleagues like Peres and Qeysar.

Party members, the first phase of a new hope has began. I consider myself, with the party behind me, to bear heavy responsibility for implementing everything—I repeat, everything—that we have promised the public. We will indeed do this. Meanwhile, I would like to thank you all, but remember, the job still awaits us. It will demand great efforts and heavy responsibility from us. Your chosen candidate for prime minister and his ministers will have to prove their ability to guide the country effectively. This is our mission, and we will carry it out. Thank you.

Plans for Coalition Negotiations

TA2406014492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0100 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Meretz leaders have decided to call on Yitzhaq Rabin in an attempt to convene a Labor-Meretz coalition. Knesset Member Dedi Zucker said that Meretz wants Labor to sign a coalition agreement with it before other partners are introduced. Dov Gilhar reports on the expected contacts at Labor headquarters today:

The planned timetable: About 15 current and future Labor Knesset members have been invited to a meeting at Rabin's office at midday to discuss the establishment of negotiating teams. The participants will divide up into several teams, each of which will conduct negotiations with a different party: one with Meretz, another with the ultra-Orthodox parties, and perhaps one also with Tzomet.

There is a great deal of bitterness in the Peres camp. Shim'on Peres left here hurt that Rabin had hardly noticed him, and in his address Rabin made clear that he would not make appointments on a factional basis. Peres waited for a telephone call from Rabin, but it did not come, and the handshake was also perfunctory. The Peres camp plans to conduct consultations today on the demands they will put to Rabin. It will all happen this morning. By noon, we will be able to report about the negotiating teams that have been set up, and perhaps also about initial contacts. Rabin's associates make it clear that there have been no contacts tonight, except for the two telephone calls to Shulamit Aloni of Meretz. There were no conversations with the ultra-Orthodox tonight.

Labor Vows Not To Withdraw From Golan

TA2406102792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Labor is promising the inhabitants of the Golan Heights that Israel will not withdraw from the Golan even as part of a peace process and that the new government will continue to develop it. These remarks were made by Shim'on Sheves, Yitzhaq Rabin's close aide, who emphasized that Labor's positions on the Golan Heights are well known and, alluding to Meretz, he said that anybody joining Labor will have to accept these positions as the basic guidelines of the government-to-be.

Likud Officials' Reaction To Defeat Reported

Shamir—Waiting for Final Results

TA2306201892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1940 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Hayim Hecht at Likud Headquarters in Tel Aviv on learning the television straw poll results—live]

[Text] [Hecht] Mr. Prime Minister, could we please get an initial reaction from you to what we have just seen on television?

[Shamir] I want to see the final results first, when there are such results. I prefer to wait for the end.

[Hecht] Did you learn of the results here first, or did you have prior information?

[Shamir] I did not have any information.

[Hecht] It still seems that according to these results you will not be able to continue to serve in your position, sir.

[Shamir] Let us see the results and then we will draw the conclusions.

[Hecht] With whom do you intend to talk in the coming minutes or hours?

[Shamir] I want to see the results first.

[Hecht] Under the circumstances, if the television straw poll results prove correct, is there room to talk of a national unity government?

[Shamir] Well, it is all premature. We need to see the results.

[Hecht] Did you expect such a thing, Mr. Shamir?

[Shamir] I cannot say what my expectation were.

[Hecht] Your countenance did not give anything away, sir. Still, what were you thinking about?

[Shamir] I need not make a confession to anybody.

Shamir Addresses Likud Supporters

TA2406000792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2257 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to Likud supporters at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv; Shamir constantly interrupted by applause—live]

[Text] First of all, dear friends, I have gone a bit hoarse in the last few days, so do not make things hard for me. However, I have not lost my faith or my confidence in the justness of our path. Dear and loyal friends, dear deputy prime minister and foreign minister, dear deputy prime minister and industry and trade minister, dear ministers and colleagues all, the advisers who work with us, the movement's activists.

It is good to meet with you today and to discuss this night's developments. Our movement's history goes back many years, and it has a wealth of experience. We were never pampered. All our achievements were attained through tremendous and agonizing efforts. I remember as if it were today how I saw our great leader, Ze'ev Jabotinsky, stoned, besmirched, and hounded during the horrendous blood libel. Although the memory of this still lives with us today, it did not diminish his greatness or prevent him from assuming his rightful place in the battle for the people of Israel and for Eretz Yisra'el.

We have had the honor of working together with Jabotinsky's pupil, the late Menahem Begin. For years and years he fought without succumbing to desperation or giving up. He kept on fighting throughout all the ups and downs until the day finally arrived, 15 years ago, when we all celebrated his great victory together here in this very hall. Our movement continues the path of the Jewish liberation movement, which is connected heart and soul to all those who fought in generations past for the survival and interests of the Jewish people, be it thousands or hundreds of years ago.

Leading the people of Israel to redemption was never an easy task. I would like to tell you that over the recent years the Likud government has led and will continue to lead the Israeli people and Eretz Yisra'el to full redemption. We have done this and will continue to do so. Clearly, this is a difficult path, from both the international and domestic aspects. Not everybody agrees with this path, which is occasionally strewn with thorns and pitfalls. Not everyone is capable of comprehending the ideas of which we are the standard- and torch-bearers.

There are years in which we succeed in carrying the flag and furthering the nation, but there also are years in which we have to retreat in face of the attacks upon us. I, and everyone here, know that throughout the entire world, in the Middle East as well as in other places, people are happy and exulting that their most dangerous enemy—the Likud, which raised the prestige of the Israeli people to unprecedented heights in recent years—has fallen. God forbid! They, of course, think differently. I tell them: Your joy is premature. The Likud has not fallen! The Likud is still alive and kicking! The Likud will continue to wage its just struggle!

The justness of our path in all fields has never been proved more clearly than in recent years. We marched forward. We helped the Israeli people progress and we furthered the interests of Eretz Yisra'el. We promoted aliyah and settlement. We strengthened security, and we are proud of all this. Of course, in political life one should not always look for justice. One should not always complain about wrongs done. There are upsets in political life. Sometimes people rise to power without any justification. There are people who fall from power even though guilty of no wrongdoing.

In summation, however, all the good things we have done will live on in Jewish history and in the memories of the Jewish people. If we brought immigrants to Israel—and the way they behaved is of no concern here—if we settled territories in Eretz Yisra'el, if we improved the standard of living of a great part of our citizens, all these add to our honor and prestige. They will be inscribed forever in the Jewish people's history. We are proud of everything we did while the Likud government was in power, and perhaps we have not yet finished.

Everything we are saying today is based on the results of a straw poll. The night is not yet over. The night in its wider sense... [changes thought] One should never give up hope. However, my friends, you see that as long as all of us stand together as one, no one can hurt us or move us from our path. No one can break us!

This afternoon, as well as in recent days, I visited many parts of the country. I met with many of our supporters from all sectors of society. Some of them were people who have to scrabble for a living, who suffer in their personal lives. I saw and felt this, but each and every one of them was willing to sacrifice his very soul and everything he owned for the things we are fighting for. Perhaps, some of them are watching us now with fear and concern in their hearts. Let us tell our friends that they should neither fear nor worry. We will continue, all of us together.

I want you all to know one thing: All the people I met today, whether in villages or cities, were 100 percent sure of the rightness of our path. I know that was also the case with everyone that the people sitting here today met with. A movement that has the support of so many believers, who are confident in the justice of its path, must succeed in achieving its goals. Therefore, let us wait and listen to developments. Let us follow everything without unnecessary feelings of rancor or a loss of control. Let us coolly appraise the dangers that definitely await us.

We must neither disregard nor lightly dismiss those people who would arrogantly crush all the ideals we hold close. We must not be flippant. We must steadfastly watch over the interests of the Jewish people and the only country it has in the entire world. We will guard these interests and continue the war. The most important thing is standing united as one man. That is our way!

Shamir on Defeat, Retirement Plans

TA2406011892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 0019 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik and party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] ['Azran] Mr. Prime Minister, it is almost morning already. The Likud has been dealt a severe blow tonight, and your party certainly has some soul-searching to do. Will you look for culprits or seek to place responsibility on someone for what has happened?

[Shamir] Well, we are not looking for culprits, but some soul-searching is always required. We have to find out why this happened, and we will. However, if anyone expected a night of the long knives he is in for a bitter disappointment.

[Sukenik] Sir, the knives have not started flying yet, but the night, as you put in your speech, is yet long; it is not yet over.

[Shamir] You mean the constant fluctuations in seats?

[Sukenik] Do you have any doubts that there will be accounts to settle in light of your movement's failure?

[Shamir] Look, you do not know our movement. It is like steel; it is only grows harder and stronger in the fire. If it is attacked, it grows stronger and finds within itself the power it needs to close ranks and stand united against all assaults. You had better know that it is not some insignificant minor party that was established yesterday.

['Azran] Nevertheless, certain people conducted the election campaign and decided on the Likud's image in it. The Likud has been defeated. Perhaps these people should be called upon to draw the appropriate conclusions.

[Shamir] Look, one should never be afraid of drawing conclusions, but this was something much more serious than anything attributable to some kind of mistake. This is a historic development. Our movement has had its fair share of historic experiences. We will search for the deeper reasons, but each and every one is convinced—and you saw this today—that at this period we must stand united as a rock. That is what we will do.

[Sukenik] Sir, I would like to ask the obvious question: You say that this is a historic development, but it was you who led the campaign against Rabin—it was actually Shamir versus Rabin—and clearly you pulled fewer votes than he did. Where is your personal responsibility?

[Shamir] That is not true; this was not a war of personalities. As I said, the war was between historic trends, between historic forces.

[Sukenik] And is there no room for personal responsibility?

[Shamir] There is always personal responsibility. Anyone can think that someone else could do a better job, but one should always consider what is preferable. There is room for personal conclusions here, but the personal issue is of absolutely no importance for me.

[Sukenik] Let me phrase the question differently: Will you lead the Likud if it is in the opposition?

[Shamir] It is not a question of opposition. The question is whether I will lead the Likud for much longer. It is only natural and clear—and I have said this on numerous occasions—that I am at the end of my own political life.

['Azran] Meaning politically?

[Shamir] Yes, under these political conditions. I do not think I have anything to worry about. There is a group of capable people in the Likud.

['Azran] The young Turks?

[Shamir] From all levels.

[Sukenik] Young activists....

[Shamir, interrupting] A strong group that can provide excellent leadership. I have played a large role in forming and cultivating this group, and I can retire without any qualms. It is only natural that I would do so in the near future even if we had won a decisive victory. You will not see me around for long.

['Azran] I would like to clarify a political issue. When you say that you will vacate your position voluntarily, does that mean that you have chosen your successor already? Is he known? Can you point him out?

[Shamir] There are no successors. Mr. Begin once said that we are not a monarchy. There are successors in a monarchy, not in the Likud. We are a democratic movement and when I retire, the party will convene and decide who is to replace me. I do not consider this a problem.

[Sukenik] Could you perhaps give us and your supporters gathered here this evening some clue or hint? Do you support the possibility that some of the younger ministers will assume leading positions?

[Shamir, laughing] You know that I do not give any hints or clues.

[Sukenik] You keep on talking about Dan Meridor?

[Shamir] I love Dan Meridor, but I love other people just as much. We are all united, and I have the highest regard for everyone.

['Azran] I would like to move on to a more practical issue. Is there any chance that you may still join some sort of unity government with Labor under the present conditions?

[Shamir] Right now, this seems a very unlikely prospect, even if conditions were different. Prior to the elections, I said that I was not ruling out the possibility of a national unity government, but speaking practically, after what happened during our previous experience with this, it is very difficult to imagine the establishment and existence of such a government.

[Sukenik] In other words, your statements imply that in the event of a small left-wing majority, the Likud will not court Rabin, but rather quietly go to the opposition to recoup its strength.

[Shamir] The Likud never courts anyone. We consider only what will best serve the national interest. The truth is that Labor disappointed us when we worked together, and I find it hard to believe that they can change.

['Azran] Thank you very much, Mr. Shamir.

Foreign Minister Addresses Supporters

TA2306232692 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2245 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Address by Foreign Minister David Levi to Likud supporters at Likud party headquarters in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] Mr. Prime Minister, fellow ministers, chairman of the campaign headquarters, colleagues: We in this house have experienced harsh times and good times, but one thing is known: In all our missions, in opposition and in government, we have served the state and the people while remaining loyal to the path we put to ourselves [applause] and for which we received a mandate. We worked and witnessed our colleagues' efforts in the cities and villages, in all situations. The spirit of Likud activists has not been broken and will not be broken. [applause]

We will wait; we still do not have the final results, and as we are seeing, it is seesawing. We will wait patiently. What is without doubt is that the Likud will honor the verdict of the voters. [applause] Our spirit did not fall in the hard days that preceded our takeover of power. We served the nation, we filled the people with hope, and we put objectives to the people. This government had important national missions and carried them out. It advanced the peace process, strengthened our hold on Eretz Yisra'el, and had the honor of carrying out the great event in the life of the Jewish people: Bringing here hundreds of thousands of our brethren from the former USSR and Ethiopia. Our hand was stretched out to save all Jews wherever they are. We have done great things. We will wait tonight for the results in order to know what the real situation is.

Dear friends, the Likud came to power with great hope. The Likud and its forces exist with the spirit that inspired great hopes on all national issues. We will continue our efforts to strengthen our forces, to crystallize what we stand for, and to strengthen our movement. That is the dictate that faces us. We toured the polling sites today and saw that there is no other movement which, while facing such results, stands upright as you do all over the country. To everybody, thank you for the dedication of the activists, and first and foremost, our supporters—the people of Israel—who worked without payment. A promise to the people of Israel: In all situations we will continue to serve the people. We must stand up for national issues. In the past we stood as a bulwark to defend the state and the people, and we will continue to do so. Thank you all.

Ari'el Sharon Addresses Supporters

TA2406002392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2250 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Address by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon to Likud supporters at Likud party headquarters in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] Mr. Prime Minister, fellow ministers, Knesset members, colleagues whose spirit has not dropped in any situation. [applause] The Likud Government over the past two years, like all previous Likud governments over the past 15 years, reached great achievements. We said and did things, we met the missions imposed on us during those years, and we faced a tough struggle in the current election campaign.

I visited dozens of locations and saw thousands of our people working day and night without payment, carrying on the struggle from small private apartments, from washrooms, from stairwells, and their spirit did not fall for one moment because they knew that they stood for a great national movement, and that they were evidence that the Likud is a movement with deep roots. We faced tough situations and stood ramrod straight.

We do not yet know how the night will end, but as we can see, there is no doubt that we have not come out winners from these elections. It is not our way that failed, not our achievements that allegedly were not implemented. In my experience—and I have witnessed great victories and large defeats—I learned one thing, that when one faces a tough situation—victors do not face a problem—anybody with experience knows that the last thing that should be done is an attempt to find culprits. What I learned from my experience is that in tough times we have to close ranks.

If we have to go into opposition—that could happen, we are living in a democracy and we will honor the verdict of the voters—even then we have a very important mission and great responsibility in the face of the Alignment and the left. Their positions on the main national issues—the integrity of the country, not only the historic value of a homeland, but also from the viewpoint of security and Israel's existence—endanger our very existence here. We will do this in the spirit we know well: Democratically, and according to the law, as is the rule in a democratic system, and we are proud that we live in such a country.

If we must, we also will act from the opposition ranks, and that situation will become clear tonight. There will still be horse trading, but we have seen the overall trend. We face a historic mission to thwart the dangers to the integrity of the nation, to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and to our very existence here. We will continue doing that wherever we are, as we have done through the years. [applause]

Our spirit has not fallen and will not fall. We will do everything to strengthen the ranks in our movement so that whatever happens we will fulfill the Likud's great national objective. We have a huge national responsibility to prevent what could happen if the left forms a government in Israel. I want to thank everybody. It is not easy to be the loser—I know that—but when I heard the singing I knew that just as we have stood firm up to now, we will continue standing firm in the future, and we will win.

Press Reaction to Election Results

TA2406121392

[Editorial Report] All the Hebrew-language Israeli newspapers on 24 June carry editorials and commentaries on the results of the Knesset elections. All the writers express the belief that having won a personal victory, Labor leader Yitzhaq Rabin has an ample mandate to pursue the quest for peace and to effect social and economic changes. The newspapers analyze the factors that brought about the political upheaval and speculate on the composition of the next government.

Tel Aviv DAVAR carries an editorial on page 1 entitled "Rabin's Turnabout," asserting that "Labor's great victory is first and foremost a personal victory for Yitzhaq Rabin," who "is now the Labor party's unchallenged leader."

The newspapers speculate on how Rabin will use his newly won power. Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ, in a commentary by Yo'el Marcus on pages A1 and A10 entitled "The King Is Dead, Long Live the King," says that "the turnabout is a personal achievement for Yitzhaq Rabin, who has drastically changed the atmosphere among the public." He states that "the majority he has received allows Rabin to be choosy" in the selection of his coalition partners and "to form the first government ever without the religious parties." Marcus writes that while Rabin can set up a narrow government with Meretz alone, "he will need an additional partner," perhaps "Tzomet, whose role it will be to balance Meretz." Marcus adds: "What is obvious and heartening is that in the upcoming season, a partnership with the Likud will not be on the agenda."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR's Gadi Yatziv, writing under the headline: "The Management of Elections and the Management of a Policy" on page 2, defines the issue of Labor's future partners as "fateful." He asserts that Rabin "has been given an excellent start which allows him to stand firm on his party's principles and refuse to give in to the potential blackmail of additional partners." He adds that Meretz has also received sufficient electoral power to prevent Rabin from turning his electoral strategy, which was based on "right-wing proclivities" designed to attract Likud constituents, into "a strategy that will govern his management of state policies."

A Tel Aviv HADASHOT editorial on page 2 by Yo'el Esteron, entitled "A Chance for Peace Without Religious Coercion," says that "by voting Labor or Meretz, a majority of citizens have declared that they are tired of the religious coercion which was reflected both in legislation and in everyday life throughout the years in which religious and ultra-Orthodox parties were indispensable government partners."

Writing on page B1 of HA'ARETZ in a commentary entitled "It Has Happened," Gid'on Samet asserts that "Labor's soaring victory will go down in history as a reversal only if the winner acts with firmness and determination" and "only if it says no to a unity government." He adds that Labor "should say no to the religious parties" and that "Labor's victory must signal the end of coercion on our mores." Samet urges Labor "to form a government now and talk with partners later: There is no reason that Labor should not exercise its majority to set up a narrow government," leaving coalition talks for later. He warns that "the chance that emerged yesterday is not as robust as it seems to be. It is threatened by quite a few perils, such as weakness, old myths glorifying national unity, and pressures inside Labor—a party with a strong hawkish wing—to come to terms with right-wing components for the sake of consensus." Samet asserts that "it is mostly up to Rabin" to take the right course.

The idea of a unity government is rejected by several writers. HA'ARETZ page-B1 editorial entitled "A Vote for the Peace Process" states: "It is to be hoped that in view of the elections results, the new government will not be one of national unity, which is a proved fiasco. The time is right for the Likud and the radical right-wing parties, which failed in several central state-management fields and which received a vote of no confidence from the electorate, to go into opposition."

The page-2 YEDI'OT AHARONOT editorial, written by Yesha'yahu Ben- Porat and entitled "The People Wanted a Change," also believes that under the circumstances, "Rabin will not see himself obligated to offer the Likud to join him in a national unity government." The YEDI'OT AHARONOT editorial also addresses the reasons for the Likud's downfall, which include "personal conflicts inside the Likud, a premonition that it was disintegrating from within, the absence of a strong leadership, the government's blunders, soaring unemployment, dwindling aliyah, and difficulties encountered by new immigrants." All these feelings catalyzed into "a yearning among the public which felt that it is time to change the regime."

DAVAR's Hana Zemer, however, insists in a page-9 commentary entitled "A Broad Coalition" that "only a broad coalition can carry out the political tasks." Zemer writes, "Woe to the prime minister who has the support of a narrow Knesset majority when he makes and wishes to implement decisions concerning the peace talks with the Arabs, namely, the future of the territories."

A similar view, although from a different slant, is voiced by HATZOFE page-1 editorial entitled "After the Turnabout," which asserts that "one cannot ignore the differences separating Labor and the left wing with regard to issues related to the formulation of the next government's political and defense policies. If Yitzhaq Rabin remains true to his line concerning the State of Israel's security borders, which he represented in the election campaign," then "he will be hard put to form a partnership with the left wing." The writer also doubts that Rabin will be able "to reach a consensus enabling a partnership between the left wing and the ultra-Orthodox." He adds that "if the new government ignores the vital national interests of the people of Israel and of the State of Israel, it will be unable to function and carry out its mission." Therefore, "to preserve Israel's political and security interests, a broad national unity government leaning on the two major parties—Labor and the Likud—and including the other religious and Zionist parties, may be inevitable."

Many newspapers stress that peace and security are Rabin's top-priority task. The 'AL HAMISHMAR page-9 editorial, entitled "Do Not Waste the Victory," asserts that "the people of Israel have opted for a sane policy and for action leading to an arrangement with the Palestinians including autonomy in the first stage and a permanent solution in the second. Furthermore, they have given their consent to attaining peace with other Arab countries. This opportunity must not be missed." The HA'ARETZ editorial, too, states that what the elections determined "was mainly the political and social path that the voters want the next government to take. Evidently, a majority has voiced its support for continuing the peace process in a more determined fashion; rebuilding the ties with the United States, which were severely damaged by the former government's policy; and mainly directing budgets to the creation of employment and the absorption of immigrants." The DAVAR editorial likewise believes "the voter desired a genuine turnabout, and he will get the change he wanted in the sphere of peace and defense policies, in social and economic fields," and in others. "Promoting the peace process will be the Rabin government's first task," the editorial asserts. HADASHOT's Esteron stresses: "A majority of Israeli citizens believe that the negotiations with the Palestinians and the Arab countries should be accelerated and a historic conciliation in the Middle East sought. This is the only way the votes given to Labor and Meretz should be interpreted. This is the mandate Yitzhaq Rabin received yesterday, and this will be his test in the coming months."

Parties Speculate on Coalition, Outline Demands

Tzomet Terms for Joining Coalition

TA2306202392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1930 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Interview with Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan by Dan Raviv and Hayim Yavin at the studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Raviv] Raful [Eytan's nickname], you have risen from two to six Knesset seats; you have tripled your power. Who do you think gave you these seats? Did you snatch them from the Likud? Were these people disappointed by the Likud?

[Eytan] We do not have precise information on who gave us this power, that is, if the poll reflects the real situation. It is my hunch that people who were disappointed by the two camps, including young voters and soldiers, found refuge in ours.

[Raviv] You have tripled your power, Raful, but you are in a situation you could not have predicted: Despite becoming a relatively strong party, you may remain in opposition because they can manage without you.

[Eytan] Well, I did not count on forming the government on the one hand, and on the other, our objective was to increase our power. It was for this end that we toiled so hard. As for the coalition, we will wait and see what happens. [passage omitted]

[Raviv] You have just confirmed that coalition negotiations with you are possible, although you declared in the past that you would not join a coalition with Labor. Would you say the adage—never say never in politics—applies in this case?

[Eytan] You are confusing things. You are drawing conclusions I have not implied and did not intend to suggest. I did not say I am now open to negotiations; I did not say that. You are so excited that you are conducting negotiations on my behalf.

We have our principles. Tzomet will adhere to its lines, which are known, and we will not deviate from them. I am referring to the political issues. Any party that wants us will have to adapt itself, to create a situation in which we should not have to deviate from our political line, to which we have adhered to date and to which we will adhere.

[Yavin] Raful, you do not then reject the possibility of sitting with Meretz and Labor in a joint coalition?

[Eytan] If they give up their territories-for-peace slogan, continue settlement—they are Zionist parties, are they not—and refrain from speaking of a territorial compromise or concessions, there will be no problem.

Coalition With Ultra-Orthodox Possible

TA2306211992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Shulamit Aloni, the leader of Meretz, said that her party is not ruling out the inclusion of ultra-Orthodox parties to the coalition on condition that there was no political blackmail. Meretz MK Yosi Sarid called on Yitzhaq Rabin to establish a government tonight.

NRP Does Not Rule Out Unity Government

TA2406034792 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0335 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Is the NRP [National Religious Party] remaining on the right? Education and Culture Minister Zvulun Hammer does not rule out a national unity government.

[Begin recording] [Hammer] The NRP is a party with a political credo, with a platform, and with its own approach on religious and national issues, and it will make its decisions based on that.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Hammer, do you see yourself, as mediating a national unity government, at least hypothetically?

[Hammer] I do not rule out a national unity government. [end recording]

Ultra-Orthodox Discuss Joining Coalition

TA2406033492 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 0325 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] There is great joy at SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]. SHAS activists celebrated all night their gain of another Knesset seat. Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef, the movement's spiritual leader, will confer this morning with Arye Der'i, who will now be a Knesset member, to discuss joining a Labor-led coalition.

Rabbi Eli'ezer Schach, spiritual leader of United Torah Jewry, expressed regret at the party's weakened state from the elections, but he told close aides, and I quote: I would prefer a coalition with the Likud, but joining up with Labor might also be possible.

Arab Parties Ready To Join Buffer

TA2406024592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0230 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The Arab parties—HADASH [Democratic Party for Peace and Equality] and the ADP [Arab Democratic Party]—are prepared to form a buffer with the government Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin will set up. Knesset Member 'Abd-al-Wahad Darawshah, the ADP leader, said that he would not make it hard for Rabin to establish a government. Our correspondent Uri Revah reports that HADASH is prepared to join a buffer in order to topple the Likud but will not participate in a Rabin coalition.

Further Reportage on Palestinian-'Arafat Meeting

Palestinian Delegates Not To Be Detained

TA2306183992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] The Palestinian delegates to the peace talks, who are currently in Jordan, will return to Israel tomorrow. It was learned today that already last week, Israel and the delegation reached an agreement mediated by Washington, under which the delegates would not be detained. In return, they will not be publicly photographed with Yasir 'Arafat.

Palestinian elements believe that although the delegates will be summoned for an investigation, they will not be detained.

Delegates To Return 'Tomorrow'

TA2406003192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0000 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Excerpt] In the wake of the election results, the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks headed by Faysal al-Husayni announced that it will return to Israel tomorrow morning.

People in the territories expressed satisfaction with the upheaval. Our correspondent, Moti Amir, reports:

[Amir] The territories expressed satisfaction with the results of the television straw poll. Many residents of the territories are closely following developments by listening to the radio and watching television. [passage omitted]

Palestinians To Be Questioned

TA2406032292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0301 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The police are preparing for the anticipated return today of the Palestinian activists who met Yasir 'Arafat in Jordan at the end of last week. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Faysal al-Husayni, Hanan 'Ashrawi and other members of the Palestinian delegation are scheduled to return today via one of the bridges over the Jordan river. Upon crossing the bridge, they will be detained immediately for interrogation. The instructions of the attorney general and the police commissioner are that they are not to be arrested and the intention is to conclude their interrogation as quickly as possible and to release them.

Reaction to Israeli Election Results

Labor Victory Welcomed

JN2406060192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The PLO and the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks have welcomed the Labor Party's victory in the Israeli elections. Jordan considered this change in the Israeli policy positive, but said the substance remains more important.

Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, told our radio that the Labor Party's victory echoed the Israeli people's decision to withdraw confidence from the Likud and its extremist anti-peace policy and to give it to the opposition so that this [peace] process may succeed. 'Ashrawi expected the Labor Party to take goodwill steps such as halting settlement activity and embarking on Palestinian elections. After indicating the difficulty of the peace process, she said the negotiations will be freed at least from the sabotage attempts of the Likud.

Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, welcomed the change in the the Israeli Government. He told our radio that the Labor Party is now required to prove its seriousness toward the peace process by immediately halting the settlement activity and approving the principle of full withdrawal from all fronts. 'Abd-Rabbuh stressed that the PLO leadership is ready to start a direct dialogue with the new Israeli Government in order to give the peace process and the negotiations a strong push.

As for Jordan, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir considered any change in the Israeli policy in the light of the prevailing intransigence as positive. In a statement to our radio, Abu-Jabir said any government, under any slogan, working seriously for peace will be a step in the right direction. He, however, considered the substance and Israel's readiness under the new leadership to implement the UN resolutions, which call for its withdrawal from the occupied territories, as more important than who will form the new government. Moreover, Israel's readiness to grant the Palestinians their right to self-determination between now and October this year, which is the period fixed to accomplish the transitional period within the peace process, is the main test of the new government's intentions, concluded Abu-Jabir.

Labor Caoable of 'Verbal Flexibility'

JN2406100392 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jun 92 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "And the "Labor" Party Won"—all quotation marks as published]

[Text] So, the "Labor" Party under Yitzhaq Rabin beat its Likud opponent led by Shamir in the Israeli "Knesset" elections.

The difference in the number of votes gained by each party did not come from a vacuum. There are economic and social reasons. The Israeli economy is deteriorating, and unemployment is on the rise. Here, we must note that the peace process and the positions of the two blocs toward it did not greatly affect the course of the elections, and did not play a major role in the victory of Rabin's party.

It is known that the Labor Party under Rabin is the same as the "Likud". It does not believe in international legitimacy resolutions, nor does it believe in the principle of land for peace. Moreover, it does not accept a halt to settlement building in the occupied Arab territories, nor does it recognize the PLO.

However, the "Labor" Party under Rabin is more capable of verbal flexibility without abandoning the adamance in substance.

This verbal flexibility in dealing with the peace initiative prompted some Arab and Palestinian circles to wager on Rabin and his upcoming government removing the peace process from its current impasse and rapidly pushing it forward!!

The Palestinian and Arab preference of the "Labor" Party to the "Likud" is an old issue. Previous experience has proven the futility of this preference.

It will become clear that the wager on Rabin and his upcoming government is a losing one. Expansionist settlement ambitions at the expense of Arab territories, water, and wealth is the political strategy of Israel as an entity. Any future government will certainly adhere to this strategy.

This strategy will only be changed forcibly through new factors, elements, and changes in the Israeli as well as Arab and international circumstances.

For example, by reviving Arab solidarity, activating joint Arab action, and improving coordination among the countries bordering Israel new facts can be created that would force the upcoming Israeli government which might be formed by the Labor party to relinquish these Israeli ambitions.

Moreover, the U.S. Administration and the international community can, if they are really sincere, force Israel to comply with just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region.

Israeli Decision Not To Arrest Delegates Viewed

JN2206155592 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 22 Jun 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Even Shamir Can Retreat"]

[Text] It is clear that even Shamir's Likud government can retract its adamance and intransigence, can take into account new facts and developments, and can be flexible when its threat fails to achieve the desired results.

The Shamir government's retraction of its threat to arrest the Palestinian negotiating delegation for meeting with the Palestinian leadership—that is, the PLO leadership—confirms that the Israeli stands are inconsistent. Anyone who believes that Shamir's stands are rigid, constant, and unchangeable is mistaken.

Positive changes in the Palestinian and Arab situation on both the popular and official levels can impose new positions on the Shamir government, the Likud, and all Zionist extremists. This is especially true given that facts and events are more stubborn than Shamir and his Likud bloc.

One of the recent facts forcing Shamir and his government into retracting their stand is the Palestinian negotiating delegation's insistence on defying the Israeli will and its insistence on meeting with President 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership. This prompted Shamir's government to withdraw a threat to arrest the members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation.

Thus, it becomes clear that Shamir also has his own calculations and readiness to retreat as required by these calculations.

It is no secret to anyone that Shamir and his Likud bloc have enjoyed playing the game of rigidity and intransigence as a result of the Palestinian and Arab concessions they have obtained—concessions dictated by the deteriorating Arab situation and the collapsing international situation. It is noteworthy that the stand of the Palestinian negotiating delegation also has forced the U.S. Administration to go back on its position.

After announcing displeasure with the Palestinian negotiating delegation's meeting with its legitimate leadership, the U.S. Administration retracted and demanded that Israel exercise self-restraint in order to maintain the peace process.

Therefore, the Palestinians and Arabs should stop making concessions based on concern about the peace process. The Palestinians and Arabs should adhere to irreversible, principled and firm stands.

Israeli 'Media Hysteria' Seen

JN2006104392 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jun 92 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "Israel and the Circumvention of Facts"]

[Text] The extremist Israeli Likud government's media hysteria against the meeting between members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations and their natural, legitimate leadership reveals the extent of the arrogance and recklessness with which this government handles the Palestinian people. This campaign also lays bare the spiteful racism that Shamir and the pillars of his government exercise most arrogantly and recklessly against existing facts on the political scene of the Palestine question.

Although the Israeli Government is capable of threatening any Israeli who meets with or who contacts the Palestinian leadership or the PLO, it has no right to terrorize Palestinians or to threaten them with detention and persecution for having done nothing but meet with their leadership and brothers. Likewise, the Israeli Government cannot separate the Palestinian people from their leadership. It cannot separate Palestinian blood or change its color.

Despite the Shamir government's attempts to ignore basic facts and to turn a blind eye to realities, it cannot forever ignore the fact that the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people within and outside the occupied territories. It cannot ignore the fact that the PLO constitutes the Palestinian people's legal authority, be it at the peace negotiations or with regard to any decision involving their interests and affairs.

The Shamir government realizes and certainly knows that the negotiating Palestinian team does not move in a vacuum, and that it has acted in accordance with the directives and aspirations of its legitimate leadership and through full coordination with this leadership since the beginning of the peace process. It also knows that there is no Palestinian anywhere who will accept changing his identity or abandoning his sentiments, nationality, and affiliation.

Therefore, attempts to ignore or to circumvent these facts do not give Israel the right to terrorize those Palestinians or to threaten them with detention, interrogation, and imprisonment. Like the entire population of the occupied territory, Palestinian negotiators openly declare that the PLO is their sole, legitimate representative and legal authority with regard to all affairs.

If all Arab and non-Arab delegations to the bilateral and multilateral peace negotiations contact the PLO and coordinate with it with regard to the peace process, then the negotiating Palestinian team in particular, which is directly concerned with the Palestine question, should not be denied this right. Otherwise, Israel's threats are not aimed against the Palestinians alone, but against all Arab and international parties participating in the peace process, parties which do not conceal their contacts and coordination with the PLO and its leadership.

The Shamir government's policies toward the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership are targets of criticism and denunciation, even by political groups within Israel itself. By its extremism and political and military terrorism, the Shamir government will not be able to attract Israeli votes or to obstruct the overwhelming international trend, which is based on the absolute conviction that continuing to ignore the PLO and circumventing the Palestinian reality—land, people, and leadership—cannot lead to a just, comprehensive, and durable peace.

The Palestinians have made it absolutely clear that the PLO—the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—will remain an indispensable factor without which no just, comprehensive, and durable peace can be achieved. This is what true legitimacy means, and this is the logic of history.

Proposal To Station UN Inspectors 'Unacceptable'

JN2406063792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 92 pp 1,5

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Parliament has no formal knowledge of an American proposal to station United Nations observers in Jordan to monitor the enforcement of the international sanctions against Iraq, but the idea of having foreign observers patrol Jordanian territory is completely "unacceptable in principle" Lower House Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat said Tuesday.

There have been reports in the past several days that Jordan was considering the American proposal, which was confirmed by the U.S. Defence Department last week, but the Kingdom's deliberations have not reached any substantial stage, according to informed sources.

Asked to comment on the proposal at a press conference at his office Tuesday, Dr. 'Arabiyat said: "In principle, this matter is unacceptable. It is an infringement on Jordan's sovereignty and this will not be allowed."

Dr. 'Arabiyat was echoing the sentiments of many politicians and officials who have expressed the same opinion ever since the American proposal was first made about one year ago, forcing it to be shelved at that point in time.

Under the relevant statutes, Parliament need not be consulted by the government for rejecting or accepting the proposal. However, observers expect the Lower House to criticise the government if it agrees to the plan.

Senior officials have confirmed that Jordan was coming under renewed pressure to accept the proposal, under which Washington is offering to withdraw the U.S.-led naval fleet now patrolling the Red Sea, monitoring cargo traffic to and from the port of al-'Aqabah.

Many questions have been raised by senior officials and politicians over the proposal, including why Jordan was being singled out for alleged violations of the sanctions against Iraq while Turkey, Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia were being spared, why station observers in Jordanian territory instead of Iraqi soil where the enforcement of sanctions could be more effective, and whether the process would end at stationing of observers at al-'Aqabah or lead to a series of further demands.

A cabinet minister told the Jordan Times Tuesday that it was extremely difficult for Jordan to accept the proposal since it would not only violate the Kingdom's sovereignty but would also give a weapon to opposition to criticise the government.

Furthermore, added the minister, the implementation of the proposal is a "complicated business that could lead to further complications all the time."

"Suppose we did accept to place U.N. observers at al-'Aqabah to inspect all incoming cargo," said the minister. "Afterwards the day will come when demand will be placed on us to station them on the border crossing points with Iraq, then all along the border and then what?"

According to another official, "Jordan is trying its best to enforce the sanctions and each and every concerned department is under strict orders to abide by the procedures related to all Iraq-bound consignments in consultation with the U.N. sanctions committee."

"There could be smuggling across Jordan's border—which applies not only to Iraq but also Syria and Saudi Arabia—but of a very insignificant level, particularly after patrols have been increased," added the official. "In any event, which country in the world can boast itself of being one hundred per cent smuggle-proof?"

Charges that Jordan is party to "large-scale smuggling of goods in violation of the sanctions" have come in a series of reports in the American press and the allegations are seen as mainly propagated by Iraqi dissident groups and the Arab allies in the American-led anti-Iraq coalition.

"Very conveniently, those who accuse Jordan of sanction-busting appear to overlook the clandestine cargo traffic across the borders from Syria, Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia?" asked one source.

"Where would military hardware, very difficult to conceal, come from when all goods coming to Jordan are closely inspected by the American navy?" asked the source referring to reports that Iraq was getting such items.

According to shipping sources, many products, including food and beverages, made in Europe, the Gulf Arab countries and the United States are seen plentiful in the Iraqi market while there is no record of such items passing through Jordanian territory.

"There is no need for any smuggling of food products since they are exempt from Article 20 of Resolution 687 and so if they pass through Jordan they would definitely be recorded," noted a source.

In the absence of such records, the source pointed out, "the conclusion cannot be but that these products reached the Iraqi market through borders other than Jordanian. And if such products could reach Iraq through such channels, isn't it also a certainty that the items that they say are in violation of the sanctions reach Iraq through the same means?"

Israel, Gulf States, U.S. 'Enemies'

PM2306160292 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 20-21 Jun 92 pp 1-2

[Wafa' 'Amr report: "Jordan Accuses United States of Forcing Gulf States To Boycott It"]

[Excerpts] Amman—A responsible Jordanian source said yesterday that Jordan feels that the blockade and pressures on it are greater now than at any time in the past, "the aim being to bring the Jordanian people to their knees and to drive them to such a state of despair as to force them to accept any peaceful solution imposed by the United States."

The source—a senior Jordanian official who preferred to remain anonymous—said that Jordan now has more enemies than before, including, in addition to Israel, the United States and the Gulf states except the Sultanate of Oman. These states use the method of "economic subversion and political pressure to cause internal tension." King Husayn's speech at the officers' graduation ceremony at Mu'tah University last week was a reply to the Gulf states—that Jordan would not kneel and would not submit to their plots and designs.

Over the past few months and weeks the United States has intensified its attacks on Jordan, accusing it of violating the economic blockade against Iraq. According to the Jordanian official, the U.S. Administration has again requested that Jordan implement and tighten the blockade to prevent goods from reaching Iraq. Moreover, the United States has again asked the Jordanian Government to permit U.S. or international forces to be deployed on its territory in al-'Aqabah and on the Jordanian-Iraqi borders to tighten controls and to prevent the infiltration of goods into Iraq.

Jordan officially rejected that request. The Jordanian official said that such a request "constitutes a flagrant violation of Jordan's sovereignty. We rejected the same request previously when the U.S. secretary of state put it to former Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri."

The official added that the current U.S. campaign against Jordan was unjustifiable. He believes that the U.S. embassies in the region leak false reports about Jordan to foreign reporters as a way of putting pressure on Jordan.

He said that "since the beginning of the Gulf crisis in August 1990, they have been harrassing ships heading for al-'Aqabah and they have tightened the noose around the Jordanian economy in order to weaken it. They still carry out full searches of ships heading for al-'Aqabah port, or they force such ships to unload at some other port. The naval forces in the Gulf of Aqaba have become a financial burden on the United States which, therefore, now prefers to deploy observation forces on the borders with Iraq and on Jordanian territory. This, despite the fact that these naval forces are financed by Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."

Another Jordanian official said that he has noticed that the U.S. fleet has intensified its presence and its surveillance and harrassment of ships heading for al-'Aqabah port. There is, he added, an intention to imposed a full blockade on al-'Aqabah and to prevent ships from going there or from continuing their journey—"all this to make us submit to their pressure for the deployment of U.S.-led international forces on the Jordanian-Iraqi borders."

He said that the United States stated its willingness to lift the blockade against al-'Aqabah if Jordan grants that request, but Jordan's reply was a categorical refusal. "If they want to tighten their siege around Iraq and to prevent infiltration, why do they not deploy their forces on the other side of the Jordanian-Iraqi borders, that is, on Iraqi territory?"

The U.S. Administration did not like that attitude and, so it increased its coordination with the Gulf states to put pressure on Jordan. The Jordanian official said that the Jordanian Government had definite information, received through several channels, that some officials admitted during the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] meeting that the U.S. Administration ordered the Gulf states not to establish diplomatic or economic relations with Jordan and to continue creating internal tension there by flooding the Jordanian markets with money to destabilize its economy. [passage omitted]

He said that the United States should understand that Jordan was committed to the blockade, even though it meant economic suicide for it. He asked: Why do the Americans not see the violations occurring on the borders of Syria, Turkey, and Iran and the smuggling that takes places across these states' borders to Iraq?

During his visit to Washington last March, King Husayn promised U.S. President George Bush to tighten the blockade and to prevent smuggling across the Jordanian borders as far as possible. [passage omitted]

The official said that the U.S. Administration may have frozen its aid to Jordan after announcing its restoration, but it has not cancelled the aid, through this could happen soon. It also cancelled the joint military air exercises with Jordan. A U.S. embassy spokesman here has emphasized that his government has not frozen aid to Jordan, despite Jordan's violation of the blockade against Iraq. U.S. aid to Jordan totals $77 million. Jordan does not depend greatly on this aid for the improvement of its economy.

The Jordanian official said: "What is the justification for these steps now? Jordan is proceeding in earnest with the peace process, but it will not apologize for its past attitudes. I am Jordanian, and if I felt that anyone was doing my country any harm then I would confront him, whoever he may be. We will not submit to conspiracies and designs which seek to weaken us. They want to bring the Jordanian people to their knees and make them accept whatever solution they propose. It is clear to us that that is their aim, but they should realize that this is a very delicate matter and that they might obtain the opposite result if they continue to put pressure on the people."

'New Wave' of Counterfeit Dollars Reported

JN2106103292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—Against the backdrop of reports of a covert American-led dumping of counterfeit Iraqi dinars to undermine the Iraqi economy, a new wave of forged American dollars has hit the local and regional markets, raising deep concern in Washington if only because of the high quality of the forgery, according to informed sources.

Amman dealers who have come across the aptly named "Super-C" bills—the latest addition to the abundant supply of counterfeit greenback in the international market—say that the new dud notes of $100 denomination are "almost near perfect" and will not only pass muster but also anything short of expert inspection by specialists.

"The paper and ink appear to be the same," said one source. "The artist, whoever it is, has shaken the belief that many features of the $100 bills are beyond immitation," the source added. "There appears to be only one or two flaws in the new batch and these could be detected only by the best of experts in the field."

Most dealers say if the quality of paper and ink is the same as the original, then the water mark and semi-metallic band would offer the best clues to detect forgeries.

The lettering on the reverse side of $100 bills, particularly the "t" and "o" in "The United States of America," is said to be the major flaws in the "Super-C" notes.

In any event, almost all dealers and banks routinely put their own tiny rubber stamps or initials on all genuine notes that they come across. For many dealers these stamps are the proof of genuinity.

By all counts, it is the high quality and not necessarily the volume of "Super-C" circulated in the Middle Eastern market that is worrying the U.S. monetary authorities. A Cyprus-based Secret Service agent visited Amman recently and briefed businessmen representing American interests in Jordan on the subject. The agent, whose name was not immediately available, also held talks with Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) officials, sources said (The Secret Service, in addition to offering personal protection to the American president, is in charge of the battle against counterfeit U.S. currency. In fact, it was one of the major tasks of the Secret Service when it was constituted about 100 years ago)

All banks and other points that deal in foreign banknotes in Jordan have been alerted against the "Super-C" wave. No comment was immediately available from the police department whether any breakthrough has been made in investigations.

Jordan faced a huge influx of counterfeit currency—including American, British, German and Saudi—in 1989 and 1990 police officials have said that the situation was brought more or less under control with the arrest and conviction of dozens of individuals and the busting of several gangs.

Banking circles outrightly reject suggestions that Iraq, which is battling the massive dumping of forged Iraqi dinars in the Iraqi market from several sources, could be behind the new dud notes in a bid to hit back at the U.S., which is said to be leading the effort to oust the Iraqi government of President Saddam Husayn through economic and political subversion after having failed to dislodge the regime in war last year.

"How could anyone suspect the Iraqis, who could not produce their own notes with any degree of quality?" commented one banker referring to the officially-issued, "photocopied" Iraqi dinars appearing in the market after Baghdad failed to persuade Britain to hand over printed Iraqi currency, ordered prior to the Gulf crisis.

The source of the new forged dollars, many experts say, could be either Iran or Israel if not Thailand, which is notorious for its counterfeit artists, whether in banknotes, travellers cheques or U.S. government bonds.

"Iranians and Israelis have a record of producing high-quality forgeries," noted one dealer. "The Iranian government itself acknowledged the high quality of the Iranian 'product' when it reported the arrest of a well-organised counterfeiting group two years ago, while it is known that an Israeli ring operated in the U.S. for many years without detection until last year."

"Both the Iranian and Israeli creations were of excellent quality, prompting many central banks to acquire special inspection equipment," added the dealer. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Awards 'Distinguished' Medal to 'Arafat

JN2206164592 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] His majesty the king conferred upon Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat the Distinguished Jeweled Reconnaissance [as heard; all Arabic dailies on 23 June render this as "al-nahdah" meaning "Renaissance"] Medal.

His majesty decorated President 'Arafat with the medal at al-Hashimiyah Palace today.

Abu-Jabir Back From ICO Emergency Summit

JN1906195592 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 19 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir returned to Amman after taking part in the emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of Islamic Conference Organization in Istanbul.

Dr. Abu-Jabir said upon his return the conference discussed issues of concern to the Islamic world, particularly the Israeli attacks on south Lebanon and the civil war in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said the conference adopted decisions with regard to the Palestinian question which affirm previous resolutions to calling for a just, permanent, and comprehensive peace.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Most of the issues that you've discussed were concerning the Islamic states. Can you tell us about them and what sort of decisions have you taken?

[Abu-Jabir] Three major issues were discussed. The first, of course, dealing with Bosnia-Hercegovina and what is taking place there and this took most of the time of the conferees. The second issue that was discussed at some length was the Palestinian question and the holy places in Jerusalem. And the third issue that was discussed with some depth, of course, is the Israeli attacks in the south of Lebanon. In addition to that, there was some discussion about Jammu and Kashmir, the events in Nagorno-Karabakh. Also some discussion took place about the admission of new states and Turkmenistan was admitted as the 47th state into the Islamic Conference Organization. [end recording]

Iranian Official Arrives in Amman for Talks

JN2106170392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Engineer Mehdi Mofidi, the Iranian deputy minister for heavy industry, arrived in Amman today on an official three-day visit. During his stay, he will meet with a number of ranking Jordanian officials. Engineer Mofidi also will hold economic and commercial talks with Jordanian officials in an effort to bolster bilateral economic and commercial cooperation.

During his visit, he will inaugurate the Iranian industries fair, which is scheduled to be set up in Amman this week. The fair seeks to acquaint Jordanian citizens with the standard of various Iranian products.

Discusses Cooperation, Joint Project

JN2306185492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, minister of industry and trade, today met with Engineer Mehdi Mofidi, the Iranian deputy minister of heavy industries, who is on a current visit to Jordan.

Jordanian-Iranian talks were also held at Amman Chamber of Industry to discuss means to develop and bolster economic cooperation between the two countries.

During his meeting with Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, minister of industry and trade, the Iranian deputy minister of heavy industries expressed the Iranian Government's desire to establish a joint project with the Jordanian Government to manufacture agricultural tractors, sowing and fertilizing machines, fertilizer spraying equipment, and pesticides produced in Iran where technical expertise and technological knowledge are available.

Dr. al-Nusur welcomed this offer and proposed the formation of a technical committee from both sides to prepare an extensive study of the project and take possible measures to implement the joint project. His proposal included the important points that should be incorporated into such a study, especially since the product deals with the agricultural activities in the kingdom.

For his part, the Iranian deputy minister of heavy industries praised the Jordanian proposal to form the committee and considered it as a good procedural step that expresses a true desire to encourage investments between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Turkish Delegation in Amman for Economic Meeting

TA2206114492 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] State Minister Erman Sahin has said that the close cooperation between Turkey and Jordan makes a major contribution to regional stability and prosperity. The fourth joint economic committee meetings between Turkey and Jordan have begun in Amman, the Jordanian capital.

Speaking during the meeting, Sahin, who is heading the Turkish delegation, recalled the negative effects of the Gulf crisis on economic activity and trade between Middle East countries. Sahin pointed out that Turkey desires to promote bilateral relations with Jordan in all fields and that trade ties between the two countries must be elevated to a level that reflects the real potential.

The meetings of the joint committee, in which the Jordanian delegation is being led by Industry and Trade Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur, will last five days.

Economic Talks With Turkey Open 22 Jun

JN2206140892 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The prime minister, al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, received at his office this morning Turkish Minister of State Erman Sahin. Industry and Trade Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur attended the meeting.

The prime minister was briefed on the results of the Jordanian-Turkish talks, opened in Amman earlier in the day. The aim of the talks is to promote cooperation in the trade, touristic, cultural, and transport fields between the two countries.

The prime minister commended the efforts made by the joint Jordanian-Turkish committee to strengthen cooperation between the two countries for the benefit of the two friendly countries.

The prime minister also asserted the significance of regional cooperation in light of the developments currently taking place in the world.

The meeting was attended by the Turkish ambassador in Amman and members of the delegation accompanying the guest minister.

The joint committee began its meetings earlier in the day. Dr. al-Nusur cochaired the Jordanian and Mr. Sahin cochaired the Turkish side. Economic and trade relations and ways of strengthening these relations were discussed.

The secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Turkish ambassador in Amman attended the talks.

Abu-Jabir Meets Turkish Minister of State

JN2306122992 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir received in his office today Mr. Erman Sahin, the Turkish minister of state, and the accompanying delegation.

The two sides discussed bilateral relations and means of developing them in all fields. They also discussed the recent events in the Middle East region and developments in the peace process.

Delegation Begins 2d Day of Meetings

JN2306183292 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] On the second day of its meetings, the Jordanian-Turkish joint committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation resumed discussing ways of cooperation in the trade and economic fields between Jordan and Turkey and means of promoting this cooperation in the interest of the two countries.

The drafting committee, which emanated from the joint committee yesterday, discussed the protocol which will be signed at the conclusion of the talks the day after tomorrow.

The joint committee sources said that the conferees will review the topics discussed by the drafting committee, including the various resolutions and recommendations in the field of cooperation in trade, industry, economy, tourism, antiquities, and transportation. The drafting committee is made up of a number of experts and specialists from both sides representing economic and trade fields.

Today, Yanal Hikmat, minister of tourism and antiquities, discussed with Turkish Minister of State Erman Sahin and his delegation ways of promoting cooperation in tourism between the two countries by implementing the provisions of the June 1991 protocol signed by the two countries. The two sides agreed to continue contacts and to coordinate on the various aspects of regional and international tourism.

On another level, Khaldun Abu-Hassan, chairman of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry, discussed with the Turkish minister of state ways of promoting economic ties and establishing joint projects in the fields of those industries for which raw materials and local expertise are available in both countries. Abu-Hassan affirmed the need to benefit from Turkish expertise in the field of promoting exports, establishing fairs, and expanding exchanges to include medicine, plastic and electric products, and household appliances in order to rectify the trade balance.

For his part, the Turkish minister was happy for the Jordanian desire to promote cooperation between the two countries. He noted that the cultural and historical ties between them is ancient and strong. He said: We pay increasing attention to the ideas which were presented by the Jordanian officials, including the proposals of the chairman of the Jordanian Chamber of Industry, and we will work for their implementation.

Views were exchanged on a number of issues, such as encouraging investments, establishing projects, and training Jordanian technicians in Turkey in the leather and garments industries. The minister welcomed and promised to implement these ideas.

Parliament Holds Extraordinary Session

JN2106140092 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] The Lower House of Parliament held its first meeting of the extraordinary session this morning, chaired by Speaker 'Abd-al- Latif 'Arabiyat and attended by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and cabinet members.

The extraordinary session called for by a royal decree will discuss bills on political parties, publications, illegal earnings, and economic crimes. The Parliament started discussing the law committed resolutions that includes the political parties law.

Political Parties Law Discussed

JN2206070492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Democracy and political pluralism came under heavy attack in the Lower House of Parliament Sunday during the long-awaited opening of debate on a draft law which is intended to organise and legalise political parties.

Eight of the 73 deputies present at the opening of the extraordinary session of the Lower House voted against the legalisation of political parties at the outset of the discussions on the draft law. Subsequently the rest of the three-hour session was spent on article three of the draft law which defines political parties.

Al-Zarqa' Deputy Shaykh 'Abd-al-Baqi Jammu told his fellow deputies that the concept of democracy and political parties were both imports from the west and were contrary to the basic principles of Islam.

"This pluralism is a foreign concept and we should not be importing western and other foreign concepts to this culture," Shaykh Jammu told the House.

"Under the guise of this international democratisation, we in Jordan agreed to starve the people of Iraq by banning them from exporting oil," he said in a harsh attack on the proposed political reforms.

Pluralism which would involve the legalisation of political parties is anti-Islam and would only serve to divide the Islamic "umma," according to Mr. Jammu.

Shaykh Jammu is not a member of either the Muslim Brotherhood bloc nor the independent Islamic bloc in the House. He is officially an independent deputy with no affiliation.

The debate on whether to reject the law altogether or to go ahead with discussing its articles was triggered by Deputy Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi (Amman), who asserted at the Jordan and Jordanians were not yet ready to embrace political pluralism. He said that while he did not reject political pluralism in principle he thought that Jordan should develop further politically before legalising political parties. He outlined four developmental phases which he believed Jordanians should go through before implementing laws on further political freedoms. The four phases outlined by Dr. al-'Abbadi, are 1) creating awareness amongst Jordanians; 2) mobilising Jordanians who are "not up to the political thought of parties," 3) reorganising the "Jordanian house," and 4) rebuilding social and political structures.

Deputies discussed article 3 of the draft law which defines political parties.

While the government version of the draft law broadens the definition of "a political party," the Law Committee of the House drew a "much more compact version of the definition," according a 'Ajlun Deputy Husayn Mujalli, who heads the committee.

The government's version requires parties to define their programmes on social, economic and political issues and stipulates that those programmes would be based on the principle of political pluralism, freedom of expression and the rule of law.

The Law Committee's version on the other hand restricts the definition of political parties to a "legal personality" that can only be dissolved in accordance with its own charter or by a high court decision.

At the outset of the session, the rapporteur of the Law Committee, Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Muhammad Abu-Faris, presented the committee's report.

The committee had debated, amended, and approved the government-proposed draft law during six sessions earlier this year. The amendments and changes proposed by the Law Committee were made without any consultation with specialists outside of the committee except the minister of interior and the minister for parliamentary affairs.

Not all the eight deputies who voted against the legalisation of political parties were independent. Four of the eight were members of the national, constitutional or independent Islamic blocs. All three blocs are rlatively new political conglomerations and except for the independent Islamic Bloc they do not have an ideological base.

Deputy Abu-Faris attempted to include a commentary explaining the amendments in the Law Committee's version of the draft law. Several members of the Law Committee objected to the inclusion of the commentary on the grounds that it represented the views of one man—Mr. Mujalli—and not the entire committee.

The discord on including the commentary reflected a wide-spread feeling among parliamentarians that the drawing up of the law has been left in the hands of "too few."

The disagreement on the very issue of legalising political parties has other origins, however, according to parliamentary observers.

The opponents are deputies who depended on tribal support during the legislative elections in 1989, according to political observers who attended Sunday's session. They said that traditional and independent politicians stand to lose the most once political parties create strong bases of support based on ideology and field candidates in all constituencies.

While deputies belonging to centrist National and constitutional blocs presented their own definitions of "a political party," Muslim Brotherhood and left-wing as well as pan-Arab deputies did not comment.

The legalisation of political parties is expected to greatly reduce the strength of tribal representation in Jordan's political system once it institutionalises itself, local political analysts say. Tribal and regional ties, however, are expected to continue to play a role in Jordanian electoral politics, observers say.

The House has 60 items on its agenda for its two-month extraordinary session. The agenda also includes draft laws on press and publications, labour, economic crimes, civil status and social security.

House Speaker 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat announced that the House would hold three sessions every week—on Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays.

During Sunday's session, the House observed a minute of silence in memory of Upper House member Khalil al-Salim, who passed away Friday, and Deputy Ahmad Qutaysh al-Azayidah, who passed away Saturday.

A successor to Dr. al-Salim will be named by His Majesty King Husayn while bye-elections will be held in two months to elect Mr. al-Azayidah's successor.

Buwayz Reacts to Labor Victory in Israel

NC2406063992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] The first Lebanese reaction to the outcome of the Israeli elections came from Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who is currently in Brazil. He said he does not rely heavily on the victory of either of the parties [Labor or Likud]. He said he relies on international pressure on Israel, particularly from the United States, to implement the UN resolutions. Evaluating statements to date, the Labor Party appears to be more open-minded about some peace proposals, but it has not been spelled out that this open-mindedness is necessary. Buwayz added that preelection statements are not necessarily honored after the elections. [Clandestine Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0445 GMT on 24 Jun adds the following: "Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that he does not want to attach too much importance to the Israeli election results, noting that he adheres to the view that there is very little difference between one Israeli political stream and another. He remarked that the Labor Party is apparently more open to some peace proposals, but this openness has not been clearly expressed."]

Al-Sulh Says Elections Scheduled 'This Summer'

U.S. 'Reservations' Denied

NC2306061292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh has emphasized that elections will be held this summer, noting that Lebanese security authorities are capable of maintaining an atmosphere of freedom during the elections. In a statement, al-Sulh denied that the United States had any reservations about the elections being held.

Hizballah Considers Participation

NC2206153692 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 17 Jun 92 p 10

[Text] In a new stand, a Hizballah official source yesterday told AL-DIYAR that the Hizballah leadership is extensively and seriously studying its options regarding participation in the parliamentary elections. The source, who refused to make predictions, said Hizballah leaders are likely to participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections and that declaration of this stand is imminent and is linked with the timing of the elections.

The source added that the Hizballah leadership differentiates between its participation in the present government and its participation in the upcoming parliamentary elections because the party has a wide popular base which cannot be separated from its surroundings. The clear views and stands of this base also cannot be ignored.

AL-DIYAR has learned that the Hizballah leadership, which is dealing seriously with this subject, recently sounded the opinion of Ayatollah Khamene'i, guide of the Islamic revolution in Iran, on this matter. Khamene'i encouraged the Hizballah leadership to participate in these elections and to send its representatives to the Chamber of Deputies.

AL-DIYAR also has learned that lists of Hizballah candidates have been prepared for al-Biqa', the southern suburb and the south. A number of these candidates are expected to win seats in these elections.

An Islamic source estimates that Hizballah will win two seats in al-Biqa', one seat in the southern suburb and one seat in the south.

Hizballah Denies Report

NC2306134492 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 18 Jun 92 p 10

[Text] We have received the following:

A Hizballah information source has denied a report published in AL-DIYAR yesterday [17 June] about the party's stand on the parliamentary elections. The source emphasized that Hizballah is still conducting an in-depth and extensive study of the issue and has not yet defined its stand.

Hizballah Commentary on Nation's Priorities

NC2306125892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Station commentary: "The Last of the Western Hostages"]

[Text] The last group of Western hostages held in Lebanon was released last week; there are no more Western hostages here. We, on the other hand, continue to be hostages of the West, the occupation, U.S. hegemony, international resolutions, Arab and European assistance, and U.S. and French military loans arranged by Amin al- Jumayyil. We continue to be hostages to Zionist threats and constant aggression by occupation aircraft and artillery.

We were hostages even before the Western hostages were taken and will continue to be hostages now that the Western hostages are free. For a long time we have submitted to international will, which has never wished us well, and to the occupier, who does not respect international resolutions. Are we to remain prisoners of fantasies, shackles, and prisons, or will we break the chains with our own hands and free ourselves from living in dreams?

Despite international conspiracies and schemes against our country, the 14-year-old aggression and the ongoing disregard of our rights and just cause, some people still retain the fantasy that Lebanon, its people and its cause are the focus of special world attention, that our case is on the agenda of all the big meetings prepared by the major states, and that our issue takes the lion's share of consideration. How can we continue to live this fantasy when our country is gradually losing its ability to recover? Is it not time to realize that self-reliance is the only way to salvation? Even if we are a minor, poor, and weak bunch in an arena packed with enemies, self-reliance is a virtue and a source of power for a country like Lebanon, with all the disregard, conspiracy, and occupation it faces.

Relying on and waiting for promises will only bury us deeper in oblivion and prepare us for slow extinction. The fate of our occupied lands depends on negotiations, our economic and living conditions are contingent on assistance, and our recovery is hinged to the decisions of others. What if the others decide to leave us as we are now?

No people, nation, or country would freely choose to live in shackles, become a hostage, or disregard their own will hoping that others will help them. Our people are living the tragedy. Do not try to numb their pain; let them live with their painful wounds so they can seek a cure. Tranquilizers are mere delusions which deceive people into believing that they are healthy and leading a life envied by others.

Elections seem to be our only preoccupation recently; we have heard about elections up to the ears. We said earlier that elections are imperative since the people have had no real representatives for 20 years. Does this mean, however, that elections should be our only concern? Are elections the only challenge we face? Are we forgetting that there are people who harbor evil intentions toward our country and the elections?

Let us engage in a candid dialogue. Lebanon's problem lies mainly in the occupation of part of its land; in the intransigence of the occupation troops and their refusal to withdraw. The solution lies in a united stand which supports, backs, and believes the resistance is the only way to liberate our land, keep our cause ringing in the ears of the international community day and night, and make our cause a sore wound on the conscience of the silent world. Do we think that we can prick the world's conscience with our silence? Is it not action and movement which can affect that conscience, reprimand and reproach it, and unmask its true nature?

Christian Maronites Oppose Elections

NC2306064292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Lawyer Ernest Karam, head of the Maronite League and a member of the Christian reconciliation committee, has told L'ORIENT- LE-JOUR that former President Amin al-Jumayyil, [Lebanese Deputy] Raymond Iddih, General Michel 'Awn, and [National Liberal Party leader] Dori Sham'un are against the holding of elections. They are prepared to adopt stands and take action on this issue, he added. Karam denied rumors that the mediation committee's mission had failed, describing the rumors as baseless.

'Awn Rejects Elections

NC2406084192 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0730 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] General Michel 'Awn [former Lebanese Army commander and interim president] has said there is no candidate representing him in the Lebanese parliamentary elections because he rejects their being held. He said that when he left Lebanon he did not hand over legitimacy to anyone. He said he supports Bkirki [the seat of the Maronite patriarchate] as long as Bkirki toes the popular line. 'Awn said: Those who went to al-Ta'if did not seek popular opinion. Why are they doing so now? Is this to cover up what they did?

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Gen. 'Awn said he would escalate the confrontation in Lebanon. He maintained that liberating Beirut and the mountain takes priority even over liberating the south.

The paper cites Gen. 'Awn as saying that from this week his voice will be heard in a direct manner in Beirut and he will escalate the confrontation. 'Awn called on the Lebanese people to boycott the parliamentary elections scheduled for this summer.

Meanwhile, Lawyer Ernest Karam, chairman of the Maronite League and member of the Christian Reconciliation Committee, has said that former President Amin al-Jumayyil, Gen. Michel 'Awn, Raymond Iddih, and Dori Sham'un [National Liberal Party leader] oppose the elections and are ready to make a stand.

Phalangists Issue Communique on Elections

NC2306073992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] Phalangist Party Leader George Sa'adah today chaired a plenary meeting of the Phalangist Party Political Bureau, Consultative Council and Central Council. This is the first such meeting since the recent Phalangist Party elections.

Sa'adah said these elections, on 8 June, were a shining example of democracy and noted their importance for the party and for public opinion, which had been apprehensive about an election campaign characterized by party members competing to serve Lebanon. Sa'adah said: We want to maintain this party victory for democracy, which we will not abandon. The party is dear to all its members. I hope every Phalangist will adhere to his responsibility because we must all pledge to ourselves, the party, and Lebanon to march forward to serve the party and country.

In the political sphere, Sa'adah discussed the overall situation in the country and the views and remarks that dealt with the party's stand or referred to ambiguity in its policy. He said: No one can teach us lessons in patriotism because we have clear positions that do not change according to our interests. We have firm principles from which we do not deviate and we know very well how to secure the national interest.

Sa'adah said: We do not say yes or no on a whim. We do not secretly negotiate something that is different from our declared stand. We have enough courage to declare our positions when the need arises.

Responding to all those who interpret the party's stand and analyze it as they see fit and to all those who inquire about the party line on current topics, particularly the parliamentary elections, Sa'adah read the text of the Phalangist Party memorandum, which he sent to the cabinet. He said:

[Begin Sa'adah recording] Cabinet: After paying my respects, I find it my duty to put in writing my position on the election bill submitted to the cabinet and to justify this stand in view of the importance and gravity of the subject:

1. The drafting of this bill and the haste with which it is being pushed imply a determination to hold the parliamentary elections in the summer of 1992. These elections should be held only after the basic provisions of national accord have been implemented so that the elections will be a referendum in favor of the accord, not against it. Not implementing some of the accord's basic provisions, such as the collection of weapons, the establishment of the supremacy of law, and the return of the refugees, precludes holding democratic and free elections.

2. The election bill submitted to cabinet contravenes two basic provisions of the national accord document: The number of deputies and the formation of the electoral constituency. You remember that agreement on national accord, born with difficulty out of al-Ta'if Accord and against the will of some Lebanese people, does not tolerate violations of its national spirit. Violating some provisions will spell its collapse. Didn't we agree in al-Ta'if that national accord is an indivisible whole?

3. Adopting a district as an electoral constituency in most Lebanese provinces will resurrect political factional tendencies and send extremist factional representatives to the Chamber of Deputies. Remembering that the new chamber will supervise the transformation from the factional to the national, we will see the difficulties it will face if we insist on adopting a district as an electoral constituency.

4. The Lebanese people see no justification for adopting a province here and a district there as electoral constituencies—except to meet the interests of some candidates. The state stands accused of this behavior. We believe the state does not need further accusations, especially regarding such a public issue.

You may rest assured that these remarks are only dictated by my concern for not undermining the national accord, the regime's democratic character, and the state's credibility. I am confident you share my concern.

With my due respect

[Signed] George Sa'adah, Minister of Post and Telecommunications

[Dated] 16 June 1992 [end recording]

Official on 'Serious Effort' To Control Economy

NC2406082692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] The cabinet has ratified most of the topics on its agenda. Information Minister Michel Samahah said the cabinet will meet late next week. Answering a question on the rise in the value of the dollar, Samahah said that the work undertaken by the Finance and Economy Ministries and the services ministries demonstrates a serious effort to handle the country's economic situation.

Maronite Envoy Meets Former Lebanese Officials

NC2006093392 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Citing its correspondent in Paris, AL-NAHAR newspaper reports that the Christian reconciliation delegation concluded its contacts and meetings with former President Amin al-Jumayyil, Raymond Iddih and General Michel 'Awn.

The meetings dealt with the Lebanese situation, especially inter-Maronite relations. They resulted in a convergence of views on topics under discussion and in support for the delegation's efforts to continue its mission to reach an understanding on vital national and Maronite issues. The delegation noted the remarks and views expressed by those with whom it met. It will continue its work in the light of these remarks and views.

A delegation member said that the mission was successful and that the results surpassed all expectations. The meetings opened horizons and spheres for future action. What unites those with whom the delegation met is greater than what separates them, and the three leaders' agreement on a number of basic points encourages the delegation to continue its work.

International Fund To Lend Money for Agriculture

NC2306121592 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul today signed a loan agreement with the International Fund for Agricultural Development [IFAD]. Under the agreement, IFAD will lend Lebanon $9.69 million to finance a project for boosting the breeding of livestock in al- Biqa' valley. Minister Dallul hoped the agreement would be a good start for close cooperation with IFAD and a step forward, enabling small farmers to develop this sector. IFAD Director Dr. Idris al- Jaza'ri said IFAD will do its utmost to contribute to rehabilitating the Lebanese agricultural sector. The new project will let 46,000 poor farmers almost quadruple their agricultural production and livestock.

Following the signing ceremony, the IFAD director held talks with the president, prime minister, and several Lebanese Government officials.

Troop Movements, Violence Reported in South

Israeli Movements Noted

NC2306112592 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah has reported Israeli vehicle movements in the Dahrat al-Dabshah area. The Israelis have also raked the areas surrounding their positions with large-caliber machine-gun fire.

In another development, the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has begun to evacuate its center in al-Nabatiyah, planning to abandon it completely by the end of June. ICRC sources have not disclosed the reason for the move.

Israeli Forces Shell Area

NC2306190392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Israeli forces shelled the outskirts of Kafr Rumman and areas surrounding Jabal Tuhrah and Tallat al-Suwayda' this evening. Four shells landed in the vicinity of the [Lebanese Army's] al- Nabatiyah Barracks.

Tank Advancement Reported

NC2406074792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text) The Zionist occupation forces are continuing their terrorist acts against our citizens in the south.

According to reports from Yuhmur and Arnun, enemy forces are opening roads in an attempt to annex the two townships to the occupied border strip. The citizens of Yuhmur and Arnun issued a statement appealing to the state and humanitarian organizations to intercede with the concerned parties and compel the enemy to halt its arbitrary actions.

Three Zionist tanks advanced from al-Dabsh toward the hills overlooking Kafr Rumman last night and began to rake the area after assuming positions there.

Shells Fall in al-Litani River

NC2406084392 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Jun 92

[Text] Several shells fired from positions held by Israeli occupation forces in 'Alman and al-Shumariyah fell in the al-Litani river basin at dawn today.

In another development, the Agent Lahd militia recently released three students it detained last week. Two others are still being held.

Fighters Overfly Sidon

NC2406104892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Israeli fighter planes overflew the south, particularly Sidon and nearby camps, at low altitude this morning.

Exclusion From U.S. Preferential System 'Unjust'

JN2406104892 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus, 24 Jun (SANA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has criticized Washington's recent decision to exclude Syria from the "preferential" system which allows developing countries to export certain commodities to the United States without paying customs duties.

In an article today, the paper describes the U.S. decision as unjust and illogical, especially when the Syrian trade unions continue to hold conferences in a democratic atmosphere to elect the new leaderships for the 22d trade unions' term.

The paper notes that observers have admitted that the elections process at the various levels of the General Federation of Trade Unions [GFTU] were honest and free. The GFTU is one of the oldest trade unions, and has been present in the trade arena since 1938.

The paper expresses surprise at this decision, which came at a time when the International Labor Conference held a five-hour meeting at its headquarters in Geneva to discuss the serious living and social conditions of the Palestinian laborers and people under the Israeli occupation and at the hands of its henchmen. Despite this, Washington did not lift a finger against Tel Aviv.

Concluding its article, the paper says: It was unfair of the United States to decide to exclude Syria from the preferential system because laborers in Syria have always been one of the pillars of our national unity. They play their developmental and political role, and shoulder the major burden in achieving comprehensive economic development.

Israeli Parties 'Two Faces of Same Coin'

JN2306061092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Press review]

[Excerpt] Local papers issued today are unanimous that with the beginning of the Israeli elections, there is no difference between the two candidate parties, nor between their two leaders in terms of aggressive behavior, racism, and expansionism.

The three newspapers, AL-BA'TH, TISHRIN, and AL-THAWRAH, note that the leaders of the two parties are two faces of the same coin.

Under the headline "Israeli Elections: A Blow to the Peace Process," AL-BA'TH says: Until the very last moments of the Israeli election campaign, competition continued between various parties over clinging to occupation, strengthening the war machine, and looking forward to expanding and imposing surrender conditions on Arabs. The results of the elections, therefore, will not affect the peace process, except to further obstruct it and bring about its failure. This is because it is difficult to reconcile the objectives of this process and the declared objectives contained in the programs of the parties competing to strike at peace in all its meanings and foundations.

All those concerned for peace should exercise all forms of pressure on Israel to force it to pursue the peace process, and eliminate any possibility that subjects the region to dangers that threaten world peace and security.

Under the headline "The First Winner in Israeli Elections," TISHRIN says: Elections for the Zionist Knesset begin today. The intensive competitive campaign that preceded these elections was a good opportunity to know better the stands of the Zionist parties. The campaign also revealed more clearly the nature of the forces that dominate the Zionist entity and their future political programs.

TISHRIN adds: Extremism, which was the prevailing slogan of the election campaign, not only expresses the nature of Zionist parties, but also reflects the temperaments that control the Israeli community. For the overwhelming majority in the Zionist entity believe that aggression and expansion are the means to guarantee security and stability. Most Zionists, moreover, are convinced that peace does not serve the interests of Israel, since it curbs settlement activity and prevents the establishment of greater Israel.

TISHRIN goes on to say: Extremist Israeli policy will escalate after the elections. In fact, it will be the first winner, because the Zionists believe that they are now in a good position and that international circumstances serve the possibility of achieving their historical expansionist dreams.

TISHRIN adds: The other thing that makes the Zionists pursue this approach is their feeling that they are excluded from the need to comply with international legitimacy and implement UN resolutions, and that the international community does not want to do anything to force Israel to implement the resolutions of international bodies.

TISHRIN concludes: Recovering Arab solidarity would pump life and strength into the veins of the Arab nation. It would also enable the Arabs to stand firm in the face of Zionist ambitions and uproot material and moral bases of Zionist expansionism in the Arab homeland. [passage omitted]

'Continuous' U.S. Support Lambasted

JN2106090092 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jun 92

[From the press review]

[Text] Today's AL-BA'TH editorial deals with Ari'el Sharon's statement in which he stressed his government's commitment to settlement building, describing it as a crucial issue for Israel. AL-BA'TH links this statement with earlier statements made by Yitzhaq Shamir and Yitzhaq Rabin and with other threats to Syria, Lebanon, and all Arabs.

AL-BA'TH says: Yesterday, for instance, terrorist Sharon said that neither the United States nor any other party can prevent Israel from building settlements in the occupied Arab territories. He also said that the Americans have nothing to do with what takes place in Israel.

AL-BA'TH says that those who are unfamiliar with U.S.-Israeli relations—of whom there are certainly very few in the world—might at first imagine that Israel is the one supporting the United States and extending everything to it, when it is known to all that had it not been for the continuous, multifaceted U.S. support for Israel, the situation in the region would not have been as it is now.

AL-BA'TH stresses that the United States' constant double standard approach in its official dealing with regional issues has prompted Israel to defy the international community and international resolutions and to unleash its policy of aggression and expansion. AL-BA'TH adds: Within this context, we have seen how the United States extends everything to Israel instead of withholding everything until it accepts UN resolutions, respects international legitimacy, and implements the resolutions whereby peace and security would be established in the region.

The paper concludes: Continuing to provide Israel with the most advanced means of killing and destruction will certainly not serve the peace which the international community wants. Rather, it will encourage Israel to commit more crimes—which the Tel Aviv rulers want nowadays.

Lebanese Information Minister Arrives in Damascus

NC2406091892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Official talks between Lebanese Information Minister Michel Samahah and his Syrian counterpart Muhammad Salman were scheduled to start at the Information Ministry in Damascus at 1100 today.

Minister Samahah arrived in Damascus at 1000, when his Syrian counterpart welcomed him.

Qaddurah Remarks on Israel at Malaga Meeting

JN2106081592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Excerpts] Malaga—At the end of its meetings in Malaga, Spain, yesterday, the international parliamentary conference on security and cooperation among the Mediterranean littoral countries stressed its support for the Middle East peace process that began in Madrid. The conference noted that a just and comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict must be reached based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, particularly the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories and the guaranteeing of the Palestinian Arab people's right to self-determination. In it final statement, the conference called for an immediate halt to Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon and the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

During the final session of the conference, 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, People's Assembly speaker and head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the conference, made a comment on behalf of the Syrian parliamentary group in which he said that Syria is not committed to any article on Israel in the final statement unless Israel implements UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and withdraws from the occupied Arab territories. [passage omitted]

Qaddurah Returns From Spain

JN2306185692 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Excerpt] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah and his accompanying delegation returned to Damascus this evening after taking part in the international parliamentary conference on security and cooperation among the Mediterranean littoral countries that was held in Malaga, Spain, from 15 to 20 June. [passage omitted]

Qaddah Receives PRC Friendship Society Official

JN2306200592 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Comrade Dr. Sulayman Qaddah, assistant regional secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received Mr. (Liu Fengping), deputy chairman of the PRC-Syrian Friendship Society. They reviewed the relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the PRC and the role of the friendship societies in deepening and promoting these relations.

Qaddah explained the political developments in the region and the Israeli enemy role in sabotaging the peace march by resorting to the policy of provocation and aggression, its continuous policy of establishing settlements and spreading repression and terror in Palestine and the Golan, and its savage attacks on southern Lebanon.

Comrade (Liu Fengping) affirmed his country's support for Arab rights and expressed his great admiration for Syria's achievements under President Hafiz al-Asad.

The meeting was attended by the members of the society's executive office and the PRC charge d'affaires in Damascus.

A session of talks was held at 1900 yesterday between the Syrian- Chinese Friendship Society delegation led by Dr. 'Ala'-al-Din 'Abidin, secretary of the Damascus Ba'th Party branch, and the delegation of the PRC-Syrian

Friendship Society delegation under Comrade (Liu Fengping), the deputy chairman of the society.

They discussed the work of the existing societies in the two friendly countries, the draft plan of cooperation, and ways to promote ties on the level of the people and the masses.

Ba'th Party's al-Ahmar Receives KSP Official

JN2106200392 (Clandestine) Kurdistan Voice of Unification in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Text] Damascus—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, received comrade 'Umar 'Abdallah Buthani, the official in charge of the Dahuk and Ninawah branch of the Kurdish Socialist Party [KSP], in his office in Damascus at 1000 on 15 June.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmopshere. The discussion dealt with the current situation in Iraq and Kurdistan. Al-Ahmar welcomed the recent move toward unity among the three Kurdish parties—the KSP, the Kurdistan Independence Democratic Party, and the Kurdistan People's Democratic Party. The meeting lasted 1 hour.

Paper Interviews Leader of Jewish Community

NC2106200092 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 19 Jun 92 p 24-25

[Interview with Rabbi Ibrahim Hamra, leader of the Jewish community in Syria, by Majdi al-Daqqaq in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Daqqaq] How do you describe the life of Jews in Syria?

[Hamra] We are in fact part of the Syrian Arab society. We have small, medium, and large merchants and professionals such as doctors, pharmacists, and dentists in the community. Some members of the community sell ready-made clothes, others work in copper engraving, a profession which is almost limited to them. Others are jewelers. The community has existed from the time Damascus was built.

[Al-Daqqaq] What went on at President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with you and the representatives of the community?

[Hamra] That was the second time we met with President Hafiz al-Asad. We asked for this meeting to congratulate him on his reelection to a fourth constitutional term in office. President al-Asad wanted to know everything about the community's affairs, even minor issues. The meeting was scheduled to last 15 minutes but it went longer than hours. I can say that the meeting was more than excellent. President al-Asad reiterated the decisions he issued at the first meeting in 1975. [passage omitted]

[Al-Daqqaq] What was the outcome of this second visit?

[Hamra] President al-Asad was broadminded. We told his excellency that we want clarifications on the travel issue because some government circles misinterpreted the decisions. We asked that the right to travel be extended to include all members of a family and that passports be valid for six years and several trips, like the ones given to other citizens. We also asked for a clarification on the ambiguity of the decision on the freedom to sell movable and immovable properties and whether the government circles should be informed before or after a sale. The president graciously ordered a rectification of all these measures.

[Al-Daqqaq] What do you say about reports that Syrian Jews are persecuted?

[Hamra] The media always exaggerates. Our instructions to the community members is to comply always with law and order. Two of our members were detained for many years. We discussed their case with President al-Asad. He told us that he had rejected all the mediations from abroad to release them. He responded, however, to the community's mediation and to my mediation and issued a special amnesty for their release.

[Al-Daqqaq] How do you see the travel issue? Do you support the emigration of Jewish citizens?

[Hamra] We should differentiate between the travel issue and that of emigration. We are talking here about travel. Many people left their homeland with their families for many years due to their own circumstances. Our community is like any other one. As the Arab proverb says: Where you get a livelihood, stay. People travel for reasons of livelihood, education, and medication.

[Al-Daqqaq] Do you support emigration to Israel?

[Hamra] Of course not. Our issue is that of travel. Any Syrian citizen might find a better chance of livelihood in Mexico or the United States. He might decide to return home after many years. This is determined by a citizen's own circumstances, regardless of whether he is a Muslim, a Christian, or a Jew.

[Al-Daqqaq] Do you want to call Syrian Jews who are living in Israel to return to their motherland, Syria?

[Hamra] This decision is above my position. Generally, they are welcome back.

[Al-Daqqaq] Israel calls itself the Jewish state. How do you view a state that calls itself a religious state?

[Hamra] Israel is a holy land in the Jewish religion. I believe that Jews everywhere have the right to visit the holy land. I do not hide from you the fact that the Jewish community in Syria has relatives, friends, and brothers there. This is why we are yearning for peace. Let us all pray to God, Lord of the universe, to inspire all the parties so that peace can be achieved. We support peace.

[Al-Daqqaq] Is Israel impeding peace?

[Hamra] We hope that all the stands will become flexible and that positive steps will be taken so that peace will be reached as soon as possible. We will then be able to visit our relatives and friends whom we have not seen for many years. Peace is not only in the interest of the Jewish community but of all communities who have brothers, friends, and relatives. There will be no problems and all the difficulties will be solved when peace is achieved.

[Al-Daqqaq] In your view, how can peace be achieved?

[Hamra] Peace is achieved with the restoration of all the rights to their owners.

[Al-Daqqaq] What rights? Do you mean the Palestinian people's rights?

[Hamra] Yes. The Palestinian people should get their rights. Peace cannot be achieved without balance, or a just peace as the politicians say. We support UN Resolutions 242 and 338.

[Al-Daqqaq] Are you, then, calling on Jews who believe in peace to pressure the Israeli Government to accept the UN resolutions and speed up the achievement of peace?

[Hamra] I do not believe that I have this right. I have the right as a man of religion to make a special prayer to God to inspire all the parties to achieve peace.

[Al-Daqqaq] What is your view of the persecution of eastern Jews in Israel?

[Hamra] I have not really seen society there, so I do not want to judge it.

[Al-Daqqaq] It is known that Israel is persecuting the eastern Jewish communities.

[Hamra] We hear about it.

[Al-Daqqaq] Do you believe that it is appropriate to have in this age a state established on a religious or communal basis?

[Hamra] Of course not.

[Al-Daqqaq] Then you are against a communal state?

[Hamra] Certainly.

[Al-Daqqaq] What is your view of what Israel is doing with some Jewish communities and its persecution of the Arabs there?

[Hamra] The Jewish religion does not permit this. It is a peaceful religion and calls for peace.

[Al-Daqqaq] Why, then, does Israel reject peace and insist on occupying the Arab territories?

[Hamra] You are trying to get me to talk about politics, and the questions are difficult.

[Al-Daqqaq] I am asking you as a Syrian citizen, as a leader of a religious community, and as a public figure.

[Hamra] I can say that I support the restoration of rights to their rightful owners. The Jewish religion does not in any way permit aggression against others and their rights. I call on Israel to establish peace, which can only be accomplished by a withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and recognition of the Palestinian people's rights and those of all the parties.

[Al-Daqqaq] What about Jerusalem?

[Hamra] Jerusalem is a holy city for all religions.

Afghanistan

Mojaddedi To Step Down, Transfer Power Thursday

NC2406074892 Paris AFP in English 0731 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 24 (AFP)—Caretaker Afghan President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi said Wednesday that he would step down and transfer power on Thursday in the presence of several mojahedin leadership councils.

The 70-year-old president did not specify in a statement whether power would be transferred, three days ahead of schedule, to the leadership council headed by cleric Borhanuddin Rabbani as agreed in April by the various factions.

In the past two weeks Mojaddedi had indicated that he might not step down by the June 28 deadline, triggering fears of major new fighting in Afghanistan.

Mojaddedi's government took power April 28 for two months after the collapse of the communist-installed regime here, under an agreement hammered out between mujahedeen groups in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Under the plan, the second phase of transition from communist to Islamic rule was to be entrusted to the leadership council under Rabbani, leader of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami faction.

Tension had been mounting in Kabul because of Mojaddedi's repeated statements that he would hold on to the presidential palace for five years if the people wanted him to stay.

His statements were countered by threats from holdout mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar that he would use military force to dislodge Mojaddedi if he refused to quit by June 28.

Heavy rocket and artillery fire resounded throughout Kabul Wednesday as the interim president made his announcement, and a spokesman for Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masu'd said the shells were coming from Hekmatyar's forces entrenched to the south of the city.

Differences With Mas'ud Cited

BK2406084292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Kabul, June 24 (AFP)—Caretaker Afghan president Sebghatollah Mojaddedi Wednesday said he was transferring power to the country's interim council, adding that he would not seek a second term.

The 70-year-old president said he would hand over power Thursday to the Jehadi Islamic council, three days in advance because of his differences with his defence minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud.

"I have no intention to continue. I will hand over power to provincial representatives of the Jehadi council tomorrow," Mojaddedi told Western journalists in an informal meeting.

"I do not intend to continue and I do not want anyone to vote for me," he added.

Mojaddedi, who was installed as head of the two-month government April 28 after the ouster of the Soviet-installed communist regime in Kabul, said that he would also not "recommend" anyone to head the second phase of the transition from communist to Islamic government.

"I ask the people of Afghanistan not to fight, not to kill each other," Mojaddedi said when asked if he feared a bloodbath after the transfer of power to his Jehadi Council.

The moderate leader said although he was quitting he would remain the leader of his multi-party Jehadi Council and be a member of the 10-member mojahedin leadership council which is scheduled to take charge during the second transitionary phase.

He squarely blamed Mas'ud, a legendary mojahedin warrior, of restricting the function of the president, saying the defence minister had acted in an "unislamic way" by even taking over radio and television stations to stop presidential addresses from being broadcast.

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Officers, Commanders Promoted To Senior Positions

LD2406105992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Under decrees issued by Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Jehad

Council and embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the following officers were promoted to a [word indistinct] rank:

1. Lieutenant General 'Abdol Rahim Wardag to the rank of [full] general.

2. Major General Saryawar [old title for senior guards of the king] Khan Mohammad, son of Akhtar Mohammad Khan, to Lieutenant General.

3. Major General Shaykh Mohammad Fateh Khan to Major General.

4. Major General Mohammad Hashem Khan (?Sayed Mohammad) to Lieutenant General.

5. Brigadier General Gholam Dastgir Khan to Major General.

6. Brigadier General Mohammad [word indistinct] Khan to Major General.

7. Brigadier General Gholam Hazrat Khan to Major General.

8. Brigadier General [word indistinct] to Major General.

9. Brigadier General Nematollah Khan (?Shiwakiwal) to Major General.

10. Colonel Habiborrahman Khan to Brigadier General.

11. Colonel Gholam Sarwar Khan to Brigadier General.

12. Colonel 'Abdol Manaf to Brigadier General.

Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi also granted to [words indistinct] jehad commanders military ranks for their services during the fight of right against wrong, for Islam, and for their services for the independence of our dear country: Haji 'Abdol Qadir—general [full]; Haji Shamali—lieutenant general; Fazl Haq Mojahed—lieutenant general; Haji Hayat Khan—major general; Haji Mohammad Zaman—major general; Haji [name indistinct]—major general; Haji Sana Gol—major general; Dr. Asef—major general; Engineer Mahmud—major general. [passage indistinct]

Uzbek Leader Dostam Urges Factions To Reconcile

BK2306153092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Sibirgan, Afghanistan, June 23 (AFP)—Uzbek leader Abdol Rashid Dostam has urged rival Afghan leaders to talk not fight, and resolve their differences without resorting to military means to grab power. The powerful warlord of northern Afghanistan told visiting reporters here the impending transfer of power in six days time from one interim government to another should be carried out peacefully. He also pledged his 160,000 strong militia would remain neutral in the process, but indicated his backing for any administration would depend on equal treatment for Afghans minorities, including Uzbeks.

Journalists flew from the Afghan capital Monday to meet Dostam following reports that he and former Afghan president Babrak Karmal had died Sunday in a plane crash.

Dostam meet the group of reporters in his stronghold deep in the northern province of Jowzjan. He said the rumors of the crash had been designed to break a multi-ethnic northern alliance formed before the ouster of the Kabul regime.

"Whether Mojaddedi remains in power or Rabbani takes it it should be settled through mediation and not militarily," Dostam said in this scenic town of Sibirgan.

Caretaker President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, whose two-month term ends June 28, insists people want him to extend his tenure, prompting fears that a leadership council headed by Borhanoddin Rabbani may launch a military strike.

"Even now we are asking the leadership councils not to harass Kabul people any more, not to destory their homes any more...why try to settle problems militarily," Dostam said.

He added his Uzbek fighters had no choice but to fight after the April 28 transfer of power from a communist regime to the caretaker Mojaddedi government.

Holdout mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, an arch-rival of Dostam, shelled Kabul and fought street battles just after the handover, and later refused to join Mojaeddedi's 51-member council saying he wanted the "savage" Uzbeks out of the city.

Some 25,000 of Dostam's men have been guarding the city of some 1.5 million people since April, and the general repeated he would fight again if Hekmatyar tried to attack.

Dostam said the northern military coalition which he heads will remain "neutral" in the new post-June 28 administration, but warned it had to emerge through a democratic process and not through fighting.

"If the majority accepts the new government, then why not us," Dostam said, but added the new administration would have to accept the aspirations of the country's ethnic minorities.

Mojaddedi's council, which has recently taken in five more from Dostam's powerful northern council, has Shiite mojahedin and minority Tajik fighters allied with defence minister Ahmed Shah Mas'ud as well as Pahstuns who have traditionally ruled the country.

Rabbani, an influential 53-year-old cleric, is the fundamentalist head of the Jam'iyat-e Eslami faction of Mas'ud's mojahedin group.

Observers here say they do not rule out new alignments emerging from the fast moving events as the scheduled power transfer approaches, with the ethnic factor probably playing a greater role than old allegiances.

Dostam and members of the former Soviet-installed regime were instrumental in toppling the communist regime April 28, by breaking away from former president Najibollah and joining hands with the mojahedin in the north. Their revolt enabled the fall of Kabul and the establishment of the first mojahedin government in Afghanistan after 14 years of war against the Soviet Red Army which left more than one million dead and five million refugees.

"Any leadership that accepts the proposal of the north (equality for the minorities) will get our support," Dostam told journalists in Sibirgan, two hours flying time from Kabul.

Hekmatyar Meets Press on Hezb-e Eslami Aims

LD2306173192 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0835 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Report on the "main points" of a news conference by Golboddin Hekmatyar, head of the Hezb-e Eslami faction, with unidentified domestic and international correspondents in Gardez on 20 June; questions and answers read by announcer]

[Text] Question: You said in today's speech [to ulem, mojahedin, and tribal leaders in Gardez] that war is the only way in which the Afghan conflict can be resolved. However, you participated in two Leadership Council sessions and signed an agreement with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, head of the Supervisory Council. Don't you have any more hope of implementing the aforementioned agreements?

Hekmatyar: If barbarism, fear, looting, insecurity, abduction, and violation of people's honor continues in Kabul at the hands of the uncultured, wild, and hard-hearted armed men and if the violation of commitments and agreements continues and if the government of guns and tanks continues to run over people, what other option will we have but war? Savagery and barbarism have ruled Kabul for two months. There is no order or security in the country's capital. People's honor, prestige, and property are not safe. Kabul's people are forced to emigrate collectively from Kabul. We do not know any other way to end this situation but to fight.

Question: Is Hezb-e Eslami isolated? Are other mojahedin supporting Hezb-e Eslami's stand?

Hekmatyar: We are not alone on this. Mojahedin from all jehadi formations stand with us. If war breaks out, you will see that all mojahedin and the nation will stand with us.

Question: If Esteemed Mojaddedi does not transfer power at the end of his two months of responsibilities, what action will Hezb-e Eslami take?

Hekmatyar: It is too early to answer such a question. We will declare what action we will take when the time comes. In general, I should say that our fighting is not aimed at or against personalities. We do not struggle only to take power from one person or to give power to another person. Our struggle is based on Islamic principles.

Question: Why has Ostad Farid [Hekmatyar's representative] not yet gone to Kabul?

Hekmatyar: We want brother Ostad Farid to enter Kabul and begin work as soon as possible. We await a proper time and implementation of our conditions. The president, Leadership Council members, and leaders currently live as (?captives) in Kabul. If the conflict continues, Ostad Farid will not be able to do anything even if he does arrive in Kabul. He should go to Kabul when he can serve.

Question: When you insist on holding elections and [word indistinct] said that holding elections is impossible in Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar: This is a plot and a pretext. Those who fear their people make such pretext. We have confidence in our people. We fully believe that our people can recognize—and have learned to do so during 14 years of war—their true servants.

Question: What will be your stand if the people chose a pro- West our a pro-East person instead of a Muslim and mojahed individual?

Hekmatyar: We trust our people. Our people did not bow before the Red Army or the Kremlin puppets in 14 years of war. Our people have been fighting communism over the last 14 years and have foiled various East and West conspiracies. The people will choose an Islamic state in the elections. Our people have struggled to establish an Islamic government and not to establish a pro-West or pro-East government.

Question: Will you give Kabul citizens the chance to evacuate before you start fighting?

Hekmatyar: We do not want to fight in Kabul streets. The fight to free Kabul will not be in the form you imagine. Our fighting has specific and limited military targets, and we will attack only those targets. If we wanted to continue the fighting inside Kabul city, we would have not withdrawn our forces from Kabul city. We would have continued the fighting in Kabul. We will only attack specific military targets and will free the people from the oppression, injustice, and barbarism of these uncultured, savage, and hard- hearted armed men.

Mojaddedi Receives New Pakistani Ambassador

BK2106165892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Pakistan's ambassador to Afghanistan, Mr. Amir Usman, presented his credentials to the acting president of the Islamic state of Afghanistan, Professor Mojaddedi, at the Golkhaneh Palace in Kabul this afternoon. The Afghan acting foreign minister, Mr. Seyyed Soleyman Gaylani, and the special adviser to the president were present on the occasion.

The ambassador assured President Mojaddedi that Pakistan is ready to give all-out help and assistance to Afghanistan for reconstruction and economic development. He said Pakistan's resources, whether technical, material, or qualified manpower, were at the disposal of Afghanistan to be utilized in a manner it likes. Mr. Amir Usman also discussed with Professor Mojaddedi matters of interest to both the countries.

Radio Pakistan's special representative Mohammad Yunus Soze reports from Kabul that political and diplomatic circles in the Afghan capital are attaching high importance to the restoration of ambassadorial relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The return of Pakistan's ambassador to Kabul after a lapse of about 13 years manifests importance Islamabad attaches to its close brotherly relations with Afghanistan.

India

National Front To Support Swell for President

BK2406032892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Professor G.G. Swell will file his nomination papers today for next month's presidential elections. The Janata Dal spokesman, Mr. Harikishore Singh, said in New Delhi that the leaders of the Dal and its allies will file Prof. Swell's nomination papers.

The National Front decided last night to support Prof. Swell. It failed to evolve a common approach with the left parties on the presidential candidates. The National Front chairman, Mr. N.T. Rama Rao, has denied that there is any arrangement between the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the Front in supporting the candidature of Prof. Swell.

BJP, Janata Dal Back Swell

BK2406081292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] Three sets of nomination papers were filed today on behalf of Professor G.G. Swell for the presidential election next month by the National Front, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], and the Janata Dal. The first set was filed by Mr. V.P. Singh along with Mr. Sharad Yadav and others, while Mr. L.K. Advani, Mr. Sikander Bukht, and Mr. K.L. Sharma were among those who filed the nominations on behalf of the BJP.

Prof. Swell was a member of the Lok Sabha between 1962 and 1967 and was deputy speaker of the same house from 1969 to 1977. He served as the ambassador to Norway, Iceland, and Burma. Prof. Swell was also actively involved in the movement which led to the formation of Meghalaya [state].

Prime Minister Rao Interviewed on Domestic Issues

BK2206115592 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Jun 92 p 12

["Excerpts" of interview with Prime Minister Narasimha Rao by H.K. Dua, editor of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in New Delhi on 7 June]

[Text] H.K. Dua: Mr Prime Minister I want to know what are your priorities or what are the most pressing problems you have on your hand? My idea is to explore your mind on issues of national concern.

P.V. Narasimha Rao: The problems what we face today in a way are all pressing and it is not easy to categorise them into most pressing, less pressing, just pressing or not pressing. That kind of strict categorisation is not possible. But as I see, we have two sets of problems which need continued attention. One is connected with the stability and unity of the country. For instance, there is a tendency to divide the society and disturb the harmony which has been brought about over the years. Something or the other can always happen, one statement here and one incident there can heighten the tension.

The other is economic aspect. We brought about fairly far reaching package of economic reforms. It was not easy for such a change to take effect automatically. And in the course of steering it, one can step on the toes of some people. Maybe for some reasons some people do not like the change. These people will not like the reforms to go through as smoothly as we want these to. I cannot blame them. But in spite of their efforts to the contrary we have to make headway because with the package like this if we do not achieve results, people will start questioning the utility of the reforms.

Dua: Mr Prime Minister, you have inherited two serious problems. One is Punjab and the other is Kashmir. Somehow, the country has not been able to find solutions to these problems which have virtually become chronic. The people are feeling concerned over the inability of the government—or of the country—to solve these problems which have a bearing on the stability and unity of the nation. How do you look at this?

PM: I thought I had inherited several other problems also. I inherited the economy in a shambles. I inherited the society that was almost breaking up. I inherited a pretty bad situation in Assam. I inherited similar other problems in many other parts of the country and I inherited the Punjab and Kashmir problems. Now it is a matter for anyone to look back and decide for himself what has happened during the last one year. And what has been attempted in the case of Punjab and Kashmir. In Punjab, we wanted elections. I wanted a State Government. I did not say the Congress Government should come to power although as Congress president I should say that. I thought it is not one party but all together can solve the problem of the State. Some parties kept out and some parties came in. A Government was formed incidentally, a Congress Government. I wanted it to settle down and come to grips with the problems.

Nevertheless, hardly a week elapses when we do not have some kind of indepth examination of some of the problems in Punjab. We have not yet come to a stage where we could announce anything because the announcement itself is a complex matter in a situation like this. I can assure you that we are seized of the problems and we are examining them along with the State Government.

How soon we can come out with a solution or a series of solutions it is not possible to say right now in this interview. But I hope it will be possible for us to say what we are going to do sooner than later.

Dua: Is the Punjab problem being looked at purely from a law and order point of view or the political aspects of the Punjab issue also being considered?

PM: All these aspects and all the issues involved, plus the aspects of attempts to fuel terrorism from across the border are looked into. Right now I could not say anything more because some time it happens that once people come to know what exactly is being done then all kinds of forces are let loose. So I will come out with a statement at a proper time. I am prepared for it.

Dua: I hope you are referring to the Punjab package?

PM: You can call it a package, call it a dispensation, you may call it a series of solutions or whatever you may call it. I am not bothered about the labels.

Dua: You will have talks with different people on Chandigarh, the water question or.....

PM: We will have talks with lots of people there, different sections of the people. That process to some extent is on. It has not been intensified but it is on. I think we should leave Punjab at that.

Dua: The people are also feeling concerned over the Government not solving the Kashmir question.

PM: Here again what exactly is the solution or what exactly is the problem in Kashmir. The problem is that from across the border there are elements coming into the Valley creating conditions of unrest and creating a sort of secessionist attitude. We have to combat this. The means of terrorism, means of violence also we have to combat. Pakistan continues to fuel the problem and we have to go on tackling it. So, when we talk of the Kashmir problem this is one.

The other aspect is that Kashmir has been under President's rule for a long time. We don't like that. The moment conditions within the State permit the emergence of a democratic set up, we would like that to happen. Again, I am convinced that a representative government elected by the people of the State is necessary for solving the real problems of the State. Here again there has been some controversy whether we could talk of elections at all in Kashmir under the present circumstances. Or I should have elections right now. I am afraid I do not agree with either of these views. We must have a representative government there. But before that we must have conditions conducive to emergence of a representative government. So on both counts I think my mind is clear.

So, again it is a matter of tackling the international situation so as to make it conducive to the emergence of a popular government. And then once government is installed there, the people's problems should be attended to by it.

The third aspect is to persuade Pakistan to desist from what it is doing now in the State.

Dua: Elections in Kashmir? The State Governor has said in a statement recently that the present is not the right time to go in for elections. Do you agree with his assessment or........?

PM: What do you mean by 'present'. When you say 'present' what you are saying is that we cannot have elections tomorrow. I would say don't stretch it too much because ultimately any prolongation of President's rule beyond a point becomes counterproductive. Even if there is a little risk we may have to take, it is better to go in for elections.

Dua: Do you envisage talks with some sections of the people in Kashmir before the elections?

PM: Again it is the same process. The point is we will never be able to bring those conditions which are today for a democratic takeover or changeover, unless the people are taken into confidence. Now who are to be taken into confidence is a matter of detail. We have to think of persons who are like-minded, who want to listen, who want a popular government and who want to work within the Indian Constitution. We have to talk to such people and I am sure that will be the methodology and that methodology, ultimately coupled with effective steps to stop violence and yield results.

Dua: But the talks that may take place whenever and with whomsoever—and I can see you are trying to have some flexibility on that—will have to take place under the framework of the Indian Constitution? Is Article 370 negotiable...?

PM: Well, we have to decide on those things when we have really come to grips with certain issues while talking to them. Now, what else they would like within the Indian Constitution, what else we would find feasible within the Indian Constitution. It is a matter which has to be gone into, because there are parties in the country which don't what Article 370 at all. But we don't agree with that view and we have expressed ourselves openly on that. These details will have to be attended to when actually we come up with these points during the talks or during our own examination of what is feasible.

Dua: I can see three broad currents of thought on the Kashmir question. One is the view which the militants take, that there should be total Azadi [freedom] for Kashmir. The second seeks dilution of Article 370 and a new arrangement for autonomy for Kashmir within the Indian Constitution. And the third—as you have mentioned—is that some parties, like the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], want scrapping of Article 370.

PM: Within the Indian Constitution, there are so many views as you can see. Outside the Indian Constitution, that is something which we don't want to look at. So, when someone calls it Azadi and means that he doesn't want the Indian Constitution to operate, then we have no common ground. If he thinks that within the Indian Constitution an amount of autonomy which meets with their aspirations is possible, then that is what we have to explore.

So, it is within that area that all these differing opinions are possible, starting from one extreme opinion that Article 370 itself should be scrapped all tbe way to another opinion which seeks more powers for the State etc. etc. So, you can see that it is a very wide area and within that wide area whatever we consider feasible and whatever is considered good for the state, that would have to be determined. And that can be only after the long, thorough and deep examination.

Dua: Is Kashmir the problem between India and the people of Kashmir or, as Pakistan has been making noises about Kashmir internally as well at various world fora, that they are a party to the dispute and they would like to sort out the problem with you and decide its fate? I would like to know your view on this?

PM: I am not sure how an intruder can become a party. That should answer your question.

Dua: Non-negotiable with Pakistan. But with the people of Kashmir you would like to...?

PM: With the people of Kashmir. It is an internal problem. We can settle with them whatever we consider feasible.

Dua: Mr Narasimha Rao, I would like to now explore your mind on the health of the Congress Party. You had a problem after the last elections with a chunk of the Congress Parliamentary Party elected from the South because the performance of the party in the North was not as it ought to have been from your point of view. Now, how are you going to retrieve the ground lost in the North for the Congress? You know it is crucial for the party if it has to rule the country for some time?

PM: I do not think so, Mr Dua. After so many elections it should be quite clear to anyone that electoral fortunes have nothing to do with the strength of the party in a particular part of the country. We have lost elections; we have won elections. There have been swings one way, swings the other. But the Congress Party's base which happens to be all over the country, has not weakened.

I am fully convinced that in the North, the Congress has a very strong base. Sometimes, there are internal reasons; sometimes emotional reasons; sometimes organisational reasons. Now, there could be any number of reasons because of which the Congress wins or doesn't win an election—whether it is in the North or the South. We have seen in all States, the fortunes of the Congress fluctuating from time to time.

Today we are faced with the problem of reorganising the Congress from the grassroots level. This job was to be done early. Mr Rajiv Gandhi wanted to do it. He had started something about it but for various reasons elections could not be held. And elections were the first step to reorganise. Without elections it is not possible to reorganise the Congress because anyone at any level has no legitimacy. By nominating him to be the president of PCC [Pradesh (state) Congress Committee] or some other committee I don't make him the legitimate. Now the time has come to reorganise the Congress. But it takes time, because after 20 years of functioning in a particular style or way, the U-turn is not easy to achieve. But we will achieve it and I would like to place the Congress is back on a democratic footing with a democratic functioning and a democratic temper. This is my task. In this, I am also facing problems and this is a longer route. But I am preferring the longer route.

Dua: But you have nominated a larger number of PCC presidents during the last few weeks?

PM: No. That was because...you see, this is what I am saying, this is the legacy of the past. We asked them to elect, they refused to elect. The reason is simple—they don't want to take the responsibility. There are groups, there are other sections and so on and when they come to election, the tendency is to take election as something like a warfare. So, they don't want to get into that, they want some elderly person sitting in Delhi to say alright this man will be the president and everybody will agree. Now, I don't like this at all.

So, some kind of balance had to be struck. From the next election onwards no one is going to take a chance like this. There is going to be continuous enrolment of members, they will fight for their rights, they will fight for their members to be brought to polling booth etc. etc. So they are going to be very regular elections for which we are setting up the machinery from now on. So from the next elections, I do not have any difficulty. But I have taken care to consult people, a long process of consultation was undertaken and only then nominations have been made. So, if it is not an election, it is not just a nomination, it is something in between.

Dua: Mr Congress president, the controversy has arisen about the elections to the Congress Working Committee [CWC] at Tirupati. Two points have emerged. One, that some sort of a syndicate had emerged at Tirupati before the elections to win a large number in the CWC. And two, the controversy arose when you moved two prominent members—who were elected—to move to the nominated quota.

PM: No, there was no syndicate which appeared either at Tirupati or later. You see, it all happened in a very unintended manner. We have a kind of election, a mode of election which gives ten votes to each voter. And there are ten persons to be elected. It will be just like a double member constituency. It so happened that in many cases both Scheduled Caste candidates were elected and both general candidates were defeated. It happens like this. So where the contest is very close a few thousand votes this side or that side will make a difference. Here it was a question of ten.

So, there was no syndicate as such but there could be understandings. A leader from State "A" would say I will get my votes to you, you get your votes to me. This kind of understanding is possible and we know it is possible. It is done. Generally elections took place like this. A leader from Andhra Pradesh said yes, I have got 40 people, fifty people. You have got a 100 people, both of us get elected. Let us make 150 each. Nothing is wrong in that. This time what happened is that while nine or 10 persons would have been taken in one panel, some were missed out, and they happened to be Scheduled Castes and Scheduted Tribes. And this is not good for the Congress. This is again unintended. Nobody wanted the Scheduled Castes candidates to be kept out but the method of election itself, and the pressure of election resulted in that. As the Congress president, I was under obligation to tell the AICC [All India Congress Committee] that this is not good. I did it at the earliest opportunity immediately after the results were announced. At the same time, I could not show any disrespect to the AICC in the sense that if they have elected their wisdom X, Y, Z; I say you go home and I will put some other person in his job, in his place. This I could not. Therefore, the only course available to me was to make use of my power of nomination in such a way that I create two vacancies for the elections. At the same time, I respect the decision of the AICC by giving two from my quota of nomination to the persons who are being replaced. They are in the Working Committee and they are such prominent people that they would have been in the CWC even if they had not contested. If I had put some people who were not so prominent, then my justification for nominating would have been under question.

Dua: You could have straight away nominated Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates in your list?

PM: Out of ten, I lose five or six for general secretaries. Also, there is a treasurer. Those ten are actually not ten. Only two or three remain out of which two I have still kept open. I have to appoint another general secretary. He will be a member of the Working Committee. So my choice is not as bad as you think. I have already used the two. These important leaders I do not mind. I have to ask myself suppose they are not contestants, would I or would I not have nominated them. The answer is yes, so I did it.

Dua: Has groupism emerged in the Congress party at the Central level?

PM: No, there is no groupism. I genuinely believe there is no groupism and this I am not just telling for the sake of the record.

Dua: Mr Prime Minister, I would like to ask the question that is in everybody's mind these days—who is to be President of the country? The elections are next month and I believe you are making efforts to evolve a consensus among various parties. How far you have succeeded so far in evolving consensus on the next President?

PM: I have succeeded to the extent of getting some kind of endorsement or approval of the method of consensus. This is all we have been able to achieve and I cannot, I say, I should have attempted for more because I have to decide in my party first. What I have achieved so far is that the other parties are in favour of a consensus candidate. Who that candidate is to be; it has to be decided by the ruling party. I have succeeded part of the way. Now, I have to continue consultations and again I will be back to the other parties.

Dua: You mean in the ruling party there is unanimity on who the next President should be?

PM: There can be many opinions but then ultimately the ruling party will choose one and there will be unanimity in the party.

Dua: On both the President and the Vice-President?

PM: I have no problem within the ruling party.

Dua: Any problem with the other parties?

PM: I don't think so. But I will have to, I mean, I really cannot speak categorically about other parties. I only say that I am hopeful.

Dua: A new controversy has arisen and Mr V.P. Singh has made a statement that he will resign from the Lok Sabha if a Scheduled Caste or Tribe candidate is not chosen for presidentship.

PM: It is not proper for me to say anything on this.

Dua: Any criteria being followed for the selection of the next presidential nomination on which a consensus is sought to be brought about?

PM: Criteria have always been there but they have never been put on paper or spelt out. Once you start doing that you get into trouble. It is better not to spell out the criteria because all of us understand.

Dua: Mr Prime Minister, public is, as you know, seriously concerned about the banks scandal the country is witnessing these days. Thousands of crore of rupees have got drained away, the Janakiraman report itself says over Rs 3,000 crore in the first interim report and more may come out. This figure itself is staggering. What is the Government doing at this stage to tackle the scandal as well as assure the public that their money is safe?

PM: We have been taking a very tough stand. In this matter we are absolutely clear in our mind that anyone who is at fault, who has done this will have to pay for his deeds. The legal process is on in right earnest. Under the new ordinance a custodian has been appointed and rules will be framed. The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has already listed and chargesheeted people.

In the next two-three days we will review the situation in the Cabinet Committee of Political Affairs and it will decide what further action is needed. I have no doubt that there will be no cover-up, no shielding of anybody. Law will take its own course and at speed. It would not be a slow course; it will be a speedy course, as speedy as we can make it. That assurance I can give.

Dua: You are now going to seize assets of people who made money out of the scam. But there are senior bank officials who have been told to go out of the job so—Is that all the punishment that is to be given to the bank officials who have colluded with Harshad Mehta and unscrupulous brokers? I don't think it is sufficient punishment from the public's point of view.

PM: Yes. We ask them to go out (bank officials) as a prelude to see that evidence etc is not tempered with. The idea is that they should not be there to influence the investigation. I think this is a very important step.

Dua: You think the public confidence in the Indian banking system can be restored?

PM: I think public confidence will remain in the Indian banking system. It is not a question of restoration but the question of people's understanding that in spite of this, the Indian banking system has been working well.

There have been some cases of omission and commission on the part of some people. In fact, confidence in the system will be redoubled if the people see that adequate punishment is meted out to these people. It is one way of restoring confidence, strengthening the confidence.

You were mentioning a little earlier that economic reforms was one of your major concerns. You have come out with a package of measures soon after you took over and in the last budget. Are you likely to press ahead with these reforms, despite the hurdles you were hinting at?

PM: Yes, absolutely. In fact the hurdles are becoming less and less as we go along and our determination becomes manifest to go on with the reforms. In the initial stages there were some people who thought that may be we will give up, but we are determined to go ahead. We are not going to slow down on the economic front.

Dua: There were some problems about evolving an exit policy in the beginning. Has the Government worked out, an exit policy acceptable to the unions?

PM: We have by and large, succeeded in convincing the labour unions and everyone concerned that whenever there is a sickness in an industry some way has to be found out to bring it back to health without causing distress to the workers. Now both these aspects are being taken care of and the tripartite discussions going on.

Dua: Mr Prime Minister, I would like to know your views on some issues concerning foreign policy. Why is it that as a country or as a Government India was slow in anticipating the changes in the Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union?

PM: I don't think so. In fact, we had anticipated all these things. If you see Rajiv Gandhi's speech in Belgrade as far back as in 1989, you will find that his analysis of what was to come was not very different from what actually happened. In details there could always be difference on whether Gorbachev would continue for so many years or not continue for so many years, or whether their system would continue or not continue. These are the things which no one can foretell. But the trend that was developing was very clearly seen.

Dua: You are to meet President Boris Yeltsin in the near future.....

PM: Well, he is expected to come here. I don't think dates have been fixed. But I met his Personal Envoy Mr Burbulis, who came here recently and we had very detailed talks with him. But President Yeltsin, we have left it to him to choose the time for his visit. Evidently, he is in the midst of difficult problems within the country and abroad, so naturally as our guest he should have the choice of the timing. I am looking forward to meeting him when he comes here.

Dua: Obviously the kind of relationship India had with the former Soviet Union cannot be there between India and Russia now.

PM: That is possible. We are having the same kind of relationship, except to the extent of changes that have come. You cannot wish away some changes and to that extent the relationship would have to undergo certain modifications. On the whole in spirit and in the approach to each other, there has been no change.

Dua: But there is an impression that while the basis of the foreign policy have not been changed, a tilt has developed during the last few months towards the United States. We hear about strategic partnership between India and United States. What do we really mean by it? Also there is talk of cooperation in the defence sphere between India and the U.S.

PM: That has been there for a long time. I thought we had cooperation in defence field with many countries. We had with France, with Germany, with so many other countries including the former Soviet Union. In the case of the Soviet Union, it was much more, quantitatively, because of the terms and conditions etc. and our own situation. There is nothing new. Yes, the U.S. finds that having closer relationship, closer interaction with us in the defence field is good for both sides. We also feel so. In fact, the first talks with the U.S. Defence Secretary was conducted by me when I was the Defence Minister in Rajivji's [Rajiv Gandhi's] cabinet in 1985, as far back as that. So, this has been going on. This is an ongoing process. I don't think there is anything very new now. But while circumstances change, while the world situation changes, these relations could become closer for various reasons. Otherwise, I think it is an ongoing process.

Dua: But we could not think of naval exercises some years ago between India and the United States, but now it seems, we can.

PM: We had. We had given them some facilities in those days which were objected to but we thought there was nothing wrong in that. Now, today if we stand to gain by a joint exercise and our experts, our Navy thinks so, I don't see why not. So, these are all things which are judged on the basis of mutual benefit.

Dua: Mr Prime Minister, I was asking about the tilts earlier, but is India under pressure from the United States on the question of Nonproliferation Treaty or some sort of a Non-Proliferation regime for South Asia....?

PM: Well, you may recall that when the Soviet Union was there, we were under equal pressure from the Soviet Union. This was one point on which both super powers had more or less agreed—styles may be different but their attempt was the same. We did not succumb. We had our own view on the matter. We still believe that matters of nuclear non-proliferation have to be decided on a global basis. I have made it very clear. It is inconceivable that we can solve it on the basis of one or two countries. It is not a question of India or Pakistan making any nuclear weapons; one or two countries, making a few weapons; it is a question of thousands of weapons already made, stockpiled by other countries and the danger of their finding their way elsewhere. That is what they have to really worry about and that is why only a global approach will solve this. We do not think that a piecemeal approach or an approach in regard to one or two countries or a small region will ever have any impact on the whole situation.

We are trying to convince the U.S. on this. We are having talks with them. I had told President Bush that five countries including the Russian Republic sitting around a table is not going to solve it because we will be only stating our positions. Nothing will come out.

I had said I am prepared to talk. That is how we agreed for a dialogue and when Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit went to the U.S. some dialogue on this took place.

Dua: That means we are continuing to oppose the signing of the NPT [Non-Proliferation Treaty]. Do I take it as a statement?

PM: Well, we haven't signed it, we have told them that our approach is totally different.

Dua: What about the Government's stand on this proposal for a five-nation conference?

PM: That is what I am saying. About this I told him (President Bush). When I met him I told him that this is not going to be really of any use because: One, they talked about the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union is no longer there. That has made all the difference. And the other is that we will be only repeating our stands. You see India and Pakistan and everybody sitting around a table, nothing will come out. Three, in principle—and most important—we consider this a global problem and therefore it should be tackled globally.

Dua: Is India under a pressure from the United States on the question of development of our missiles? There has been pressure on the supply of a rocket engine from Russia to India.

PM: Well, you can call it by a particular name doesn't really mean any change, any difference. We have a research and development programme which we do not consider as objectionable. I made a statement in Parliament earlier bringing out the relevant facts, namely, that the same engine was offered by the U.S., by France and by Russia. Now, out of the three, we made a choice and there is no reason suddenly for any of the other two to think that it has become illegal by our not accepting their offer. Maybe they might have passed a law, this is possible. Later on, there was a law passed by them which perhaps makes it objectionable if they think so. Now, the same thing happened in the case of Tarapur, they passed a subsequent law but they couldn't just ram it down our throats because we were not ready for that. We said we will insist on the contract and they agreed, which was entered into before you passed your law. So they did find a way, they understood our point.

Dua: They foumd a French route for it.

PM: In the same way, suddenly they have passed a law, this has become objectionable. I mean it may lie for the future, I really don't know what law they have passed and how they look at it. But what was not considered objectionable, a weapons programme or a part of the weapons programme, potential for a weapons programme, cannot suddenly be called objectionable.

Dua: But are Washington's reasons in your view commercial or basically they don't want us to develop our missiles?

PM: Well, I think there is a general disinclination to allow anyone else developing it. So, that is how it is. We say we can't be choosy in these matters. If there is to be no development, there should be no development anywhere. If there has to be disarmament, there should be total disarmament. This is what we have been standing for. So, there is nothing very new in this. We have some capability, the engine is to be developed, we can develop it, our scientists have said it. It is a question of time. I have also said it in my statement. So, I think we should take all these things in our stride.

Dua: Do they want us to go slow on Agni?

PM: I don't think they have said so. At least I don't recall either we have been told that we should do this or not do that. The point is that they consider this programme as a Dual Use Technology which can be used for weapons purposes and so on. That way I can cite a number of examples which can be used as dual use but you don't stop using them for the peaceful purpose for which you want them. So, on the whole instead of really getting into an acrimonious debate, we should take it in our stride and take our own decisions.

Dua: Mr Prime Minister, some time back earlier in an interview you were mentioning in the context of Punjab and Kashmir that there is a dimension that Pakistan is trying to encourage secessionist elements and you said you would like to persuade Pakistan to stop interfering in our internal affairs. Now, are you really hopeful you will be able to persuade Pakistan. After all, a number of attempts have been made earlier to persuade Pakistan not to do a few things, but....

PM: But I don't want to give up. We are neighbours. Neighbours should never give up the effort to improve their relations regardless of how much success you achieve at a given moment. And we know that there are forces who perhaps do not want us to succeed. This is one thing which both of us have to understand.

Dua: You are going to meet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Rio next week.

PM: I think so. They had arranged something. Now it is to be changed because the timings of the conference have changed and I am told that they are rescheduling it.

Dua: But if the meeting takes place, are you going to take up the questions of Punjab and Kashmir terrorism...?

PM: Naturally, we have so many things to talk about and you can't have a talk with the Prime Minister of Pakistan without taking up Punjab and Kashmir.

Dua: Thank you very much Mr Prime Minister. I find the time is over.

PM: Thank you.

Scientists Successfully Test Airborne Radar Model

BK2306145692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Indian space scientists have successfully tested a demonstration model of an airborne version of synthetic aperture radar. According to a press release issued in Bangalore today, the radar was developed at the Space Application Center of ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] in Ahmedabad. The imagery obtained during the test flight has demonstrated its superior quality.

CPI-M: Bush Okays Greater CIA Surveillance

BK2206104692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Jun 92

[Text] The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has condemned the reported decision by the U.S. President Mr. Bush to authorize the CIA to step up its surveillance against India and some other Third World countries. The party Politburo in a statement in New Delhi today demanded that the government take immediate steps to counter such threats.

Iran

Editorial Views Iraqi-Kuwaiti Border Demarcation

NC2106171792 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Jun 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Let's Not Have Another Versailles"]

[Text] Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir, in a detailed letter to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali, called the Iraq-Kuwait border demarcation commission's motion a "violation" of UN Security Council Resolution 687, claiming that the commission's duty is to specify the borderlines and not to change them.

Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir is believed to once again set forth Iraq's claim of sovereignty over Kuwait in tune with the Ba'th Party's foreign policy which has mainly revolved around expansionism in recent years.

Surely, these claims are not so far-fetched, taking in view the records of Iraqi rulers, yet regional countries are worried lest the UN commission would violate what is rightful and legitimate and overlook the indisputable rights of the Iraqi people, as information pouring in indicates the commission's effort to bar Iraq's access to the high seas by merely relying on some British Foreign Ministry documents.

If international organizations are bent on punishing the Iraqi regime for its spirit of aggression, the people of Iraq should not pay indemnity for this motion. On the contrary, the Iraqi regime itself should be brought to task.

Granting Iraqi oil fields to Kuwait or a part of Umm Qasr Port to Iraq is inequitable and, moreover, tramples the rights of the Iraqi people. Such a move can also be deemed a ploy whose engineers intend to sow the seeds of crisis in this strategic region for the decades to come.

At this point, it is apt to recall a historical experience. In the wake of World War I, leaders of the triumphant countries in the Versailles Pact (June 1919), in place of punishing the Second reich, made the German people pay heavy indemnity. In fact, in Versailles, they prepared the ground for World War II and for the emergence of the Third Reich. An experience of a similar nature should not recur today.

At present, too, if the regional governments demand to stop and bar crises, they should preclude the imposition of a border pact on their neighbors.

Meantime, the Kuwaiti government and people should not jubilate over the commission's decision, since it might serve as a victory for only a short period of time while, in the long run, it will actually grip Kuwait sovereignty and territorial integrity with serious problems.

At any rate, Iran cannot be pleased and satisfied with a change in the established geographical borders in the region, even if this change dwindles the borders of the enemy, it is unjust and unfair.

IAF Commander Remarks on Blocking Nuclear Arms

NC2106121792 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 17 Jun 92 p 2

[Text] The Israeli Air Force [IAF] commander states that Tel Aviv should block the entry of nuclear weapons into the Middle East and even take military action for this purpose.

According to the French news agency from Jerusalem, General Herzl Bodinger, talking to a group of journalists on military issues, said that Israel should use all military and diplomatic means to stop the flow of atomic weapons to the Middle Eastern region. He claimed Iran was the greatest buyer of arms in the region, and that she is trying to acquire nuclear weapons. He added that the Israeli army has to have information on the military capability of Iran, and study ways of countering Iran's power.

All in all, the remarks of the high-ranking Zionist official contains no new points. In fact this is part of the propaganda campaign that has been launched against Iran in the past 12 months, after the war of oil in the Persian Gulf.

The Propaganda campaign pursues two main objectives;

1. Frightening Iran's neighbors, specially the southern Persian Gulf littoral states, of Iran's "growing military might." This is in line with the general policy of preventing any kind of rapprochement from taking shape between the Islamic Republic and its neighbors, and encouraging Iran's southern neighbors to enter into military alliance with the West and in particular with the U.S. for the ostensible purpose of ensuring their security against military threats from Iran.

2. To aggrandize military threat from Iran as a means of justifying Israel's aggressive policies in the Middle East. The Israeli regime expresses concern over the proliferation of nuclear arms in the Middle East, but it apparently reserves for itself the right to possess the most destructive nuclear weapons which it procures with the aid of its Western allies. And what is worse, this regime has often demonstrated its total disregard for international laws and regulations and especially the resolutions of the Security Council. What power or authority in the world would be in a position to punish Israel if it one day created an atomic catastrophe? Apparently the Security Council, which according to the charter of United Nations is entrusted with such a task, is not in a position to perform the job, since it has been even unable to enforce the implementation of resolutions Nos. 242, 338, and 425. And in case such an atomic holocaust is created by Israel, Washington will undoubtedly prevent the Security Council from passing any resolution against Israel, and even if any resolution is ratified, it will have to be shelved next to the other resolutions.

As was repeatedly declared by Iran, and was further confirmed by the observers from the World Atomic Organization [as published], Iran is not in possession of nuclear arms, and all research into the atomic field being conducted in this country is simply for the purpose of peaceful application of atomic energy.

Iran supports nuclear and chemical disarmament on the international level, and as a preliminary stage wants the Middle Eastern region to be free of all atomic and chemical weapons.

Nagorno-Karabakh Conference Postponement Viewed

LD2106200892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1853 GMT 19 Jun 92

[From a commentary entitled "Who Benefits From The Delay in Karabakh Peace Conference"]

[Excerpt] According to the ITAR-TASS news agency, the Nagorno-Karabakh peace conference, which was due to be held on 23 June in Minsk—the capital of Byelarus—has been postponed for technical and political reasons. Beyond a doubt, the announcement of this news can only make the enemies of Azerbaijanis and Armenians happy. Holding the Minsk conference could create new hopes for ending the bloodshed in Karabakh. [passage omitted]

Postponing the peace conference in Minsk is considered a fatal blow to the peace talks. Although the Armenian negotiating party has not mentioned a specific reason for failing to participate in the talks, it seems that a recent defeat of the Armenian forces is the main reason for it.

Political observers believe that what can be promising is the continuation of international efforts aimed at stopping the fighting in Karabakh. Definitely, nonparticipation in the peace talks can create pessimism in international bodies toward the intention of those who evaded a political solution to the Karabakh crisis for any reason. Under the conditions when both Azerbaijani officials and Armenian leaders stress settling the Karabakh issue by political means under UN supervision, hidden hands are at work intending to fan the existing differences and to create new obstacles on the way to agreement.

The question that can be posed is: Who really benefits from continued fighting in Karabakh? Assuredly, identifying these factors can help us get to know the main reason for failure of peace efforts. Some observers believe that the same people—who by provoking Armenian and Azerbaijani extremists attempt to postpone all the peace measures—consider sufficient in the (?mind) one: The blows arising from this unjust war for preventing Armenia and Azerbaijan from making progress. Undoubtedly, if an all-sided and lasting peace is established in Caucasus, those who are following their [word indistinct] interest in this region for any reason will be forced to ignore their [word indistinct] interest in this region.

At any rate, today the people in the regional countries anxiously follow the events of Karabakh and wish to see the end to this fruitless war with the realization of the just and graceful peace.

Editorial Views Recent Events in Mashhad

PM2306131692 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 10 Jun 92 p 8

[Unattributed editorial: "We Have To Remove the Conditions Under Which Plots Can Succeed"]

[Text] The events that occured in Mashhad recently as well as those that occured in a few towns before that, attracted analysts' and officials' attention. In Mashhad there was friction between some of the residents of one part of the town and the municipality, and this issue caused some of them to start a protest in the street. But according to information received, it has now become clear that there were some troublemakers among the protestors who had ulterior motives. It was this group that torched government and private buildings and looted. There is no doubt that punishing these people will remove the belief among those who start this sort of incident that the regime is too weak to take action against this type of behavior.

The interesting point that comes to mind regarding these events is the widespread presence of jihad volunteers and people's masses in the streets to prevent a repetition of the incident that same night.

What prompted these forces to intervene is without a doubt their sense of duty and responsibility to defend the revolution and the regime of the Islamic Republic. The thing that provokes these feelings in them is their participation and involvement in society and the regime and is rooted in Islamic ideology. Basically, while there is this ideological link between the people and the regime, there can be no danger of a real threat to the Islamic revolution. These same people have so far not refused any sacrifice to safeguard the regime of the Islamic Republic. What can be done to keep this active presence alive and what can be done to prevent this sort of dissatisfaction as well as the tendency to abuse this dissatisfaction?

Islam is an ideology shared by the people and the regime in Iran. It guarantees laws and economic, social, and cultural regulations that have made it a governing ideology. This unique position of Islamic ideology has profound effects on the nature of relations between society and the regime. Standards like economic justice and the necessity of having the correct political relations between the people and officials in the regime are always considered by society, which judges the entire regime based on these points.

Adopting economic policies by the government that bring extra burdens for the poor and on the other hand bring increasing profits for the rich and the capitalists without a doubt weakens this ideological bond between the people and the regime. The people recognize Islam as the foundation stone of social justice, and it is natural that they would expect the government to bring about that situation in society.

On the other hand, political factions engage in confrontation that contradict the principles of Islam, and they do not consider what is in the best interests of Islam, which causes the revolution's forces to lose heart. This issue could also damage the ideological bond that exists between the people and the regime. Therefore, it is necessary for officials to think more of the poor and oppressed, those whom the imam called the "barefooted masses," in society when adopting economic policies. They are the main backbone of the Islamic revolution. Within the political factions, those who are sympathetic must also pay attention to what sort of effects their actions will have on our country's entire regime. In reality it must be said that there are a lot of chains with interconnecting links in this world.

The recent remarks by the U.S. President and other American officials about the effects of the Islamic Republic on U.S. regional policy does not rule out similar incidents in other towns in our country. The one element that can act as the biggest threat to such plots—which are looking for an excuse to unfold—is the presence of revolutionary forces on the scene and strengthening the ideological bond between them and the regime. This can be achieved by implementing social justice and a healthy political atmosphere in the country. Of course, good executive management in dealing with issues and small problems also prevent these from becoming crises.

Clandestine Kordestan Radio Views Bukan Protests

NC2106153092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] A report from the [Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran] Party Committee in Bukan says that following the extensive antiregime demonstrations and ensuing damage to the regime's centers of suppression, the regime's antipopular mercenaries intensified harassment and are trying to take revenge on the people for having participated in the demonstrations. Reports indicate that the arrests continue. The regime deployed so many forces there that every 100 meters people are searched and questioned five times. An atmosphere of terror reigns in the city, the antipopular mercenaries thinking that this is the way to prevent popular uprisings. They should know that such acts only make the people more decisive and more persistent in continuing their struggle.

Another report from the Party Committee in Bukan says that the regime is pressuring the people arrested during the protests, demanding 350,000 rials each for the damage inflicted on the regime's suppressive institutions. The report also says that to continue its tactics of pressure, the regime has stopped giving bakeries flour in Bukan.

In relation with the recent demonstrations here, the Party Committee sent an appeal to the people of the city to the Voice of Iranian Kordestan. The appeal states: O respectable people of Bukan—As you know, following your heroic demonstrations against the clerical regime, a noteworthy number of the revolutionary children were arrested and cast into the regime's prisons. By knowing the nature of the clerical regime and the hostility of this regime against the oppressed Kurdish people, a number of respectable children of our people are being threatened with execution and annihilation. We call on you, the Bukan people who revolted, not to waste time in sending a list of the names and details on those arrested to the Party Committee in Bukan. The list will be placed at the disposal of human rights and humanitarian forums and organizations to pressure the clerical regime and assist in stopping the death threats from being executed. We express our deep gratitude for your cooperation.

[Signed] The Party Committee in Bukan.
[Date] 17 June 1992.

Commentary Views Limiting Population Growth

NC2106135192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0340 GMT 21 Jun 92

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Excerpts] In the name of God: Extensive programs to control population growth will be implemented this year. The deputy health minister for health affairs introduced the new family planning programs last week, describing them as the ministry's best policies. [passage omitted]

Economic and social development programs are now being pursued with great efforts here at a time when we face a large growth in population. The latest statistics indicate that our population growth rate is 3.4 percent; the nation's population will double every 20 years. The population of some developed European countries doubles every 300 years.

Each year 1.8 million children are born in Iran. If population growth is not in synch with a growth of domestic potential and resources, we will face serious shortcomings in our programs and plans. The growing population will need food, housing, clothing, and employment in time. All this is happening when our economic and social programs are concentrated towards overcoming past backwardness, rather than meeting the needs of the future.

Research indicates that each percent of population growth absorbs nearly 3 percent of the Gross National Product [GNP]. Thus, if the population growth is not controlled, our GNP each year will be nill. By controlling the population growth, however, we can bring needs and potential in line more and more until one day they are equal.

In the country's first [five-year] socioeconomic development plan, the family planning program was implemented. This plan envisages a drop in population growth to 2.9 percent. It has been said that 10,000 health centers nationwide are implementing family planning programs and that these centers are to be increased to 15,000 by the end of the [five-year] plan.

The family planning program is the most important and most serious activity initiated last year. It is hoped that it will be further pursued within the framework of new programs this year.

IRNA Reports on Higher Education Policy

LD2106213592 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 20 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 20, IRNA—Manpower is the key element in the development of each nation but what is more important is the role educated people play in planning for such a development.

The "cultural revolution" in the Islamic Republic of Iran started simultaneously with the 1979 victory of the Islamic revolution in a bid to do away with the traces of the past corrupt culture spread by the former Shah. For the perpetuation of the cultural revolution and with regard to the significance of universities as the main scientific an cultural centers, the High Council of Cultural Revolution was formed in 1981.

The prime objective of the cultural revolution was first purging universities from ideological inclinations towards either the East or the West. The next step was to bring about a cultural evolution at all social levels and substitution of the values left by the former regime by divine and Islamic ones.

The High Council of the Cultural Revolution is a policy making body which also coordinates activities and the link between the higher education organizations and institutions throughout the country.

In the first five-year development plan (1990-94) more emphasis has been put on the training of skilled and educated manpower and the grave responsibility in this connection is shouldered by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

Presently, the country enjoys a growth of 220 percent as regards the number of university students compared to the pre-revolution period.

Prior to the revolution there were a total of 175,000 students throughout the country which figure rose to 400,000 last year. This figure only includes those attending state universities and institutions.

Meanwhile, 200,000 students of private universities and institutions should be added to the figure which put the total number at 600,000, an increase of 330 percent as compared to the pre-revolution era.

One of the main objectives of the first development plan is to boost this number to 777 students per 100,000 population. Now, three years after the plan is launched, the number is around 1,000, ahead of the schedule.

At present there are 41 universities, nine complexes, three faculties, 11 training schools and 18 research institutions throughout the country under the umbrella of Culture and Higher Education Ministry.

However, Culture and Higher Education Minister Mostafa Mo'in-Najafabadi has recently expressed dissatisfaction over the share allocated to his ministry in the first five-year development plan.

The foreign exchange budget needed by the ministry in the course of the first development plan had been primarily estimated around U.S. dlrs. 1.29 billion but the figure was later lowered to dlrs. 600 million. The minister has called for a revision in this regard.

This has faced the ministry with a currency deficit of about dlrs. 120 million each year which would leave its negative impacts directly on the status of universities.

Despite present bottlenecks, plans are underway to attract both Iranian and non-Iranian experts abroad to develop specialized courses in the country.

Other projects are aimed at furthering cooperation with international organizations including the UNESCO, reopening of the College of Insurance of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) which will admit students from member countries as well as the newly independent Central Asian republics.

An international congress for the expansion of scientific and cultural cooperation with the Central Asian republics and the neighbouring countries will be held in Shiraz, southern province of Fars, this fall.

Meanwhile, a regional library on science and technology is being completed through the cooperation of the Third World Academy of Sciences.

The academy was opened in 1982 to create coordination and cooperation among scientists of the Third World countries of whom 10 have been awarded with the Nobel prize. The main objective of the academy among others, is to support gifted talents as well scientific research works in the Third World countries.

Pakistan

Government Agrees to Conference on Kashmir Issue

BK2306152492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1416 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] Islamabad, June 23 (AFP)—Pakistan has agreed to a conference of delegates from both the Pakistani and Indian parts of Kashmir under the auspices of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), the group said Tuesday. In a statement, JKLF chairman Ammanullah Khan said he considered that permission came Monday from Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Siddique Kanjoo.

He was referring to remarks by Kanjoo in New York to the effect that Pakistan had no objection to any gathering that could lead to a solution of the Kashmir dispute.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN quoted Kanjoo as saying after a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Butrus-Butrus Ghali that Pakistan was willing to accept any proposal that "resolves the dispute in an equitable manner."

Khan did not say if there had been any official, direct response from the government, however.

The JKLF, which wants the independence of Kashmir, plans to hold the conference next month at the summer resort of Rawalakot in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, with the goal of evolving a formula for a peaceful settlement.

"The conference is aimed at finding a peaceful settlement on the basis of the Kashmir peoples' aspirations and without jeopardising the legitimate rights of India and Pakistan," Khan said.

Islamabad insists on a plebiscite choosing between union with Pakistan, which controls about one-third of Kashmir, or India, which controls the remainder.

The sources said the conference, originally set for July 1-3, was likely to be shifted to the middle of the month because the Indian Government had not yet responded. The JKLF has invited some 130 Kashmiris, including four detainees from Indian Kashmir.

Praising Kanju's statement as a "wise decision," Khan said India should "expedite issuing of passports" to the invitees. He also said he hoped the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi would issue visas quickly.

The conference, observers said, marked a more moderate approach by the JKLF, which attempted mass crossings of the border in Kashmir earlier this year. During the first attempt in February, at least 16 people were killed and scores injured when Pakistani security forces repulsed the marchers.

Pakistan and India have fought two wars over Kashmir since the subcontinent's independence from British colonial rule in 1947, and the issue continues to strain bilateral relations.

The minister said he had urged the United Nations to end the "repression in Indian-held Kashmir," where, he said, more than 6,000 people have been killed over the past two years "while struggling for their right to self-determination."

India Asked To Refrain From Firing on Civilians

BK2406094592 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jun 92 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, June 23—Pakistan has asked India to refrain from firing on the civilians, civilian trucks and buses on the Line of Control (LOC) in Kashmir.

This warning has been conveyed to India third time in less than one month by the Director General Military Operation (DGMO) Pakistan, when he came in contact on hot line with his Indian counterpart on Tuesday.

"Pakistan reserves its right to retaliate, if Indian side does not stop this practice. Pakistan cannot resort to firing upon civilians since its Armed Forces do not believe in making the innocent civilians a target", Islamabad told New Delhi through the channel of regular contact by the DGMOs.

According to reliable sources, the Indians have been firing intermittently on the LOC for the last more than two months but Pakistan exercised restraint and tried to tackle the situation through DGMOs. The Indian Army opened indiscriminate firing on LOC near Nakyal and adjacent areas last week, which resulted in injuries to a number of civlians on A.K. [Azad Kashmir] side.

Sources said that Pak Army resorted to retaliation in order to provide cover to the civilian population movement since the main road was situated parallel to the LOC.

According to information received here, nine Indian troops were killed in the cross-firing in this areas which forced the Indians to stop the firing for the time being and their troops disappeared, leaving behind the dead bodies of nine soldiers, which were removed late in the night.

Source said that despite Indian assurances, which were given twice, the firing had become a permanent feature. Pakistan had asked its troops to take any appropriate steps in order to give protection to the civilians. The Indians had also reportedly tried to intimidate Pakistani troops on Siachen by opening heavy fire which turned into severe exchange of firing. On Siachen the Indians had suffered heavy losses during the last six weeks. Their three troops were killed during the process.

President, Premier Receive Visiting PRC Delegation

BK2306144792 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Jun 92

[Text] The president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has said Sino- Pakistan friendship—a model of interstate relation—is a source of peace and stability in the region. The president was talking to the visiting delegation of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference led by vice chairman, Madam Qian Zhenying, in Islamabad today. The president said the time-tested Sino-Pakistan friendship will continue to grow from strength to strength despite the vicissitudes in international relations. He said the friendship is based on mutuality of respect, benefits, and sincerity of purpose. The leader of the Chinese delegation expressed satisfaction over the depth and direction of existing relations between the two countries and thanked Pakistan for consistently showing solidarity with China.

During a meeting with the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, in Islamabad today, the leader of the Chinese delegation conveyed a message of goodwill from the Chinese leadership to the prime minister. She said the Chinese Government and people are highly appreciative of Islamabad's support to them during all crucial periods in the history. She also appreciated the economic policies being pursued by Pakistan. The prime minister admired the efforts of the Chinese people and government to achieve self- reliance and their quest for peace. Pakistan is also moving in that direction and for attaining long-lasting peace in the South Asian region it has put forward a suggestion to hold a five-nation conference for declaring South Asia a nuclear-free zone. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said we must strengthen this relationship in view of the changing world scenario giving birth to new realities and alignments among members of the world community.

Afghans Urged To Promote Political Process

BK2406113692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 24 Jun 92

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that it is for the Afghan leaders themselves to take further necessary steps to carry forward the political process in Afghanistan in the interest of peace, harmony, stability, unity and reconciliation in the country. Answering questions by newsmen at a briefing in Islamabad today, he said the Peshawar accord of the 24th April was a decision of the Afghan leaders themselves. He said Pakistan extended full political and diplomatic recognition to the Afghanistan's interim council which assumed power in Kabul on the 28th of April in accordance with the Peshawar accord.

Former Minister Sentenced for Drug Smuggling

BK2406093592 Islamabad THE NATION in English 24 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] Peshawar—Former minister of state for tribal affairs and ex-MNA [Member of National Assembnly] from Khyber Agency Malik Wans Khan Afridi along with his six accomplices were sentenced to five years of rigorous imprisonment, Rs [rupees] 50,000 cash fine and 20 lashes each. In default of the payment of fine, the accused would remain behind the bars for six months more.

The sentences to Malik Waris Khan along with Mir Akbar, Mohammad Ali, Kamal Khan, Mukmil Shah, Khan Sher and Mir Badshah were awarded by justice Hayat Khan, Special Judge for Speedy Trials here on Tuesday. Mir Akbar, Mohammad Ali and Kamal Khan were awarded rigorous imprisonment for further two years and Rs. 10,000 cash fine under Section 4 of the PPC [Pakistan Penal Code].

Mir Akbar, Mohammad Ali and Kamal Khan had been arrested with 425 kilograms of charas at Kotal check post in 1990 and challaned [convicted] under Section ¾ of the PPC. During investigations before Magistrate Asmatullah Khan they disclosed names of their other accomplice, including former minister of state Malik Waris Khan who, at the time of capturing of contrabands, was enjoying ministerial post in the cabinet of former prime minister Ms Benazir Bhutto. Later, Malik Waris Khan along with Mukmil Shah, Khan Sher and Mir Badshah managed to get bail before arrest from District and Sessions Judge, Kohat.

However, the case was later referred to the Special court for Speedy Trials, Peshawar. The learned judge, after hearing arguments from both the sides, found the accused guilty and awarded each of them five years rigorous imprisonment, Rs. 50,000 cash fine and 20 lashes.

Abdul Latif Afridi, Abdul Sani Advocare, Attaullah and Mir Ajam Afridi represented the accused in the Special Court while Amjad Zai advocate represented the State.

It is to be mentioned here that Malik Waris Khan Afridi was elected Member National Assembly from Khyber agency in 1988. He was inducted in the cabinet of former prime minister Ms Benazir Bhutto as minister of state for tribal affairs. He remained on the said post till August 6, 1990, when the President dissolved the assemblies. However he did not contest October 1990 polls.

After announcement of the judgement, Malik Waris Khan, present in the court, was apprehended by police and sent to central jail, Peshawar.